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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Where should the U.S. government build the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitors Center?

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'Heroic Deed'

The Boating Safety Section awarded two persons for their "heroic deeds."

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Toyota President Akio Toyoda personally and repeatedly apologized to Congress and millions of anxious American car-owners.

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Castro Well

Fidel Castro is "exceptionally well" and appears recovered from a health crisis that has kept him out of the public eye for more than 3 1/2 years.

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'Do the right thing'

While I certainly hope that both the CNMI and Guam will ultimately have visitor and science centers, I firmly believe that it is incumbent upon the federal government to honor its negotiated obligation to the CNMI with all due respect and fairness for the people of the CNMI.

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

By HAIDEE V. Eugenio
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REPORTER

The grassroots movement Friends of the Monument has asked members of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife to "do the right thing," while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked for "respect and fairness for the people of the CNMI" by recommending passage of a bill seeking to build a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument visitor facility in the CNMI as promised by the White House.

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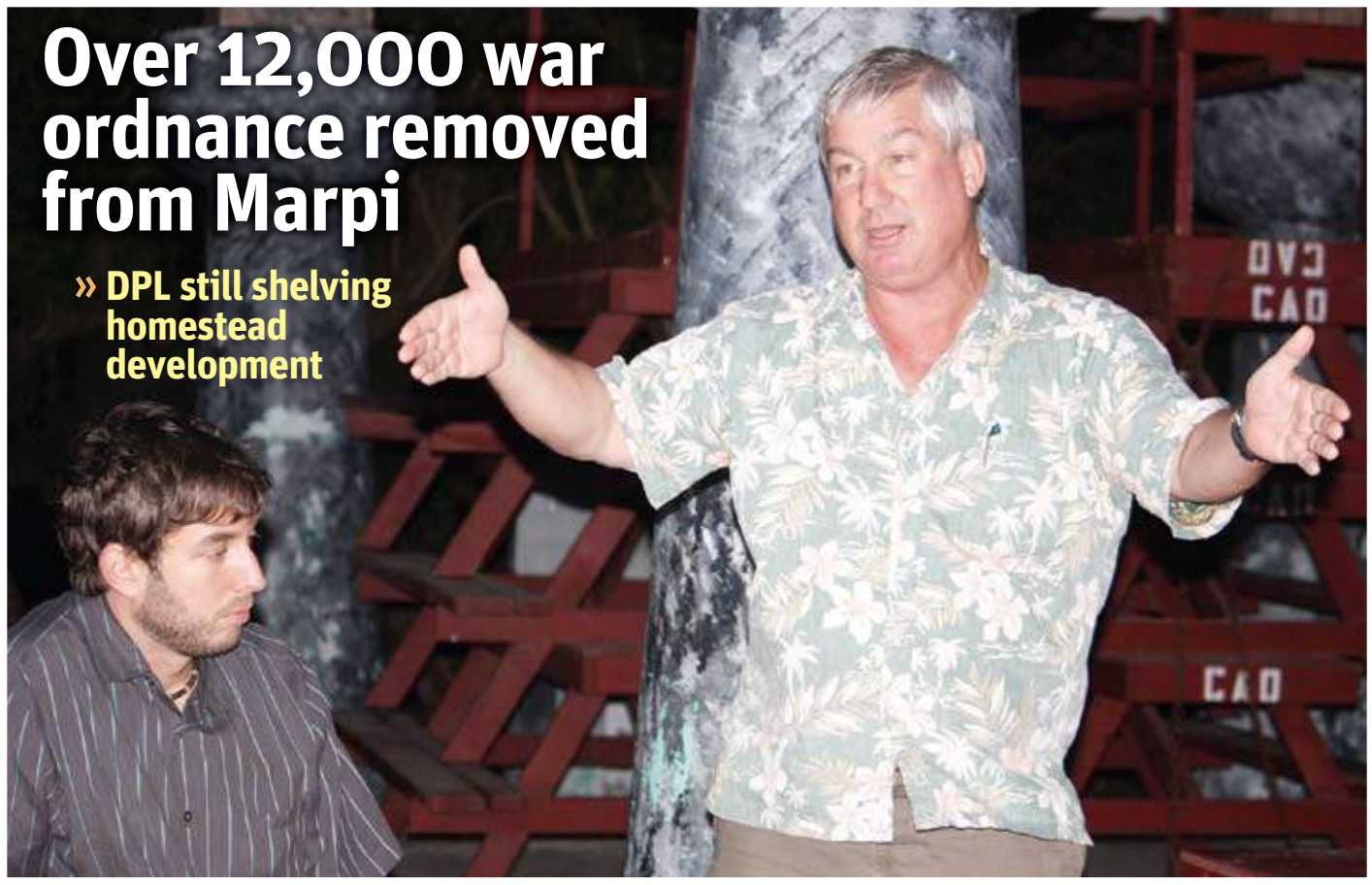
Over 12,000 war ordnance removed from Marpi

» DPL still shelving homestead development



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over 12,000 pieces of unexploded World War II ordnance have been removed from a scenic Marpi area where a controversial homestead project by the Department of Public Lands was supposed to be built.

DPL contractor Ampro is expected to soon collect soil samples for testing. The tests will determine whether soil in the area has been contaminated with

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ampro president John Scott, right, gestures as he talks about the cleanup of Marpi of unexploded World War II ordnance, while U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9's Michael Mann, left, looks on during a public meeting of private citizens, EPA, and Department of Public Lands officials for updates on the Marpi project.

Feds, CUC agree to new deadlines, requirements

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Utilities agency hopes for reconsideration of $4M in accrued penalty

Retiring U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Alex R. Munson approved on Wednesday a joint stipulation between the U.S. government and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., setting new deadlines and requirements—including a quarterly status conference—aimed at improving CUC's water, wastewater, and oil handling services.

The four-page joint stipulation came a few days after the U.S. Department of

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Fitial supports Obama nomination of Limtiaco as US Attorney for Guam, NMI. PAGE 2

Saipan 'battleground' welcomes World War II vets anew. **PAGE 3**

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Local

Fitial supports Obama nomination of Limtiaco as US Attorney for Guam, NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration is supporting President Barack Obama's nomination of Guam Attorney General Alicia Limtiaco to serve as the U.S. Attorney for Guam and the NMI.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Limtiaco will replace U.S. Attorney for Guam and NMI Leonardo Rapadas.

"Given that the CNMI is not afforded its own U.S. Attorney at this time, the administration embraces the president's nomination of Guam's AG Alicia Limtiaco to serve as the U.S. Attorney for Guam and the NMI," Fitial's press secretary, Angel Demapan, told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment on the matter.

Limtiaco

The Fitial administration said "Limtiaco has done great things for the territory of Guam and if confirmed by the U.S. Senate, the administration is confident that she will serve the NMI well."

"Nonetheless, the administration is very pleased that President Obama has chosen a native of the Marianas to oversee the territories," said Demapan.

The White House transmitted Limtiaco's nomination yesterday to the U.S. Senate.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, in a separate statement, also expressed support to the nomination.

"Attorney General Limtiaco has a solid record in law enforcement on Guam culminating in her term as attorney general. President Barack Obama has confidence that she will be an effective leader for federal law enforcement in Guam and the Northern Marianas. She has the intellect and drive to address the issues and challenges that our communities face. She has devoted her life to public service and we are proud of her accomplishments and her nomination by the president. I congratulate Alicia Limtiaco and I look forward to supporting her confirmation in the U.S. Senate," Bordallo said.

Limtiaco is the first woman to be elected attorney general of Guam.

Her priorities as attorney general have included public education initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of Guam's laws. She has also led initiatives to prevent Internet crimes against children, cyber security and identity theft.

Prior to her election as attorney general, Limtiaco served for more than seven years as a prosecutor under the Guam Office of the Attorney General.

Limtiaco is a 1990 graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California in 1985.

AG asked to hold off today's deadline for former immigration employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan) has asked Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham to lift today's deadline for former immigration employees to find jobs in other government agencies.

Demapan informed Buckingham of Tuesday's passage of House Bill 17-20, which would "give individuals additional time in order to be laterally transferred to other agencies in the CNMI government."

"I write to respectfully request your immediate attention to lift the Feb. 26, 2010 deadline for the remaining staff of the CNMI Immigration Division to secure alternate employment," Demapan told the attorney general in a Feb. 24 letter.

H.B. 17-20, introduced by Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), passed by an 18-0 vote.

Some of the former immigration personnel showed up at the House session on Tuesday to seek help from lawmakers.

"Incidentally, we met with these affected employees and have asked them for their continued patience and understanding as we swiftly work collaboratively together to seek a meaningful and mutual beneficial legislative solution to their impending employment predicaments," Demapan said.

Sablan, a former director of the now-defunct Division of Immigration, said yesterday that the committee is working with the Senate to consider the urgency of the bill and to act on it favorably. The Senate will hold a session today.

He said while many of the former employees were transferred to other agencies such as the Division of Customs, Department of Corrections, the U.S. Passport Office and the Office of the Attorney General, these transfers are only "temporary" because there is no law to effectuate their lateral transfer to other agencies.

Buckingham issued a memorandum on Dec. 31 officially informing departments that the Division of Immigration under the Office of the Attorney General officially ceased operations effective Dec. 31 or a little over a month after the federal government took over local immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

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Saipan 'battleground' welcomes World War II vets anew

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

World War II veteran Leighton Willhite, fourth from left, who saw action in the Japanese island of Iwo Jima, takes part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor and Flag Circle in Garapan yesterday morning.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two veterans of the Second World War set foot on Saipan again yesterday to honor the great sacrifices of fellow soldiers as well as remember indigenous people who perished during the war.

Veterans George Fox and Harvey Jetton, both assigned to the 4th Marine Division on Saipan and Tinian during the war, traveled from the mainland with their families and relatives of other war heroes to personally offer flowers and prayers to fallen combatants of the war.

In a simple ceremony at the American Memorial Park yesterday, the group was welcomed and recognized by representatives of various groups and agencies including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, and Military Veterans Affairs Officer Ruth Coleman.

According to John Powell, director of operations for military historical tours, the two war veterans are among five who are scheduled to visit the islands this week. Three other war veterans are set to arrive Saturday before flying to Guam for the annual trip to Japan for the commemoration of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The Battle of Iwo Jima produced some of the fiercest fighting in the Pacific campaign of World War II.

Powell, who has been traveling to Saipan for nine years, said the veterans' annual visit to the island has been around for about 16 years.

He said the group is scheduled to visit all historical war sites on Saipan and Tinian and see how these places have changed in many years.

The trip is also special for relatives of the veterans.

"It brings closure to them because a lot of their parents never talk about the war and so by seeing these places, they understand what their parents went through. For the group, it is awakening," Powell said.

Powell, who is fascinated by the island and its culture, admitted wanting to move to Saipan.

"My wife and I love it here… It's very nice and we love the people. It's a great place and one of the most beautiful places on earth. I just hope that the people here know about this and take care of it," he said.

Powell's group will leave on Saturday while the new batch of veterans will stay until next week.

Today, the veterans will receive medallions from the CNMI government honoring their valor and sacrifice.

"We're very thankful to what they did [during the battle]. We're very happy to welcome them back here on the island. It's an honor to be visited by our war heroes and their families," Coleman said.

Local war veteran Antonio Tenorio was also laid to rest yesterday at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Coleman lauded the contribution and sacrifices of the war hero in defending the freedom that everyone in the nation enjoys.

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FEDS

From Page 1

Justice told Munson that CUC has accrued over $4 million in penalties as of this month for non-compliance with the March 2009 stipulated orders despite regular notifications from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Bradley R. O'Brien of the U.S. DOJ's Environment Enforcement Section and CUC counsel Timothy M. Connor signed the Feb. 24, 2010 joint stipulation.

CUC executive director Tony Muna separately expressed hope yesterday that EPA will reconsider the accrued penalties now in excess of $4 million.

"As to accruing penalties, we are hopeful that EPA will recognize that CUC continues to act in good faith to ensure compliance with the Stipulated Orders and environmental laws," Muna told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

He said at the outset of signing the consent decree, CUC's concentrated efforts to stabilize power generation sufficiency and reliability was a critical ingredient to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

"Without successful power generation rehabilitation, water and wastewater systems will not work; water lines will not be pressurized and unable to deliver water to our customers. Sewer lift stations will not operate, leading to sewage backups," he added.

Muna thanked Munson "for his encouragement to both parties to continue to work together."

Quarterly status conference

Under the joint stipulation, the court is to hold quarterly status conferences to be scheduled by the parties.

CUC is required to file a status report 30 days prior to each quarterly conference, while the U.S. government is required to file a status report 15 days prior to each quarterly conference.

Muna said with quarterly status conferences to be scheduled pursuant to the joint stipulation which will include respective legal counsels of CUC and EPA, plus the Department of Justice, "a close working relationship between CUC and EPA is being forged to ensure that both parties work together toward CUC compliance with the stipulated orders and environmental laws."

In March 2009, Munson signed stipulated orders that set requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet.

The orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and EPA based on the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The stipulated orders also provide a roadmap for providing improved water and sewer services in the CNMI.

Stipulated Order I requires CUC to create a new management and financial structure of all aspects of CUC's operations. It is related to CUC's inadequacy of providing potable drinking water and wastewater services.

Stipulated Order II involves the lack of infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling and transfer facilities of the power generation facilities, and power distribution, including possible environmental site cleanup.

There are four conditions under the joint stipulation signed on Wednesday specifically for Stipulated Order I.

1. Proposed candidates for all positions required under SO I must be submitted by CUC to EPA within 30 days from Feb. 24, 2010.

2. CUC shall submit an approvable interim financial plan within 30 days from Feb. 24, 2010. In the event that EPA disapproved it, CUC must resubmit within 30 days from EPA's response.

3. CUC shall submit an approvable reorganization plan that meets all requirements of SO I within 30 days from the date of the entry of the order.

4. CUC shall submit a draft scope of work and request for proposal for the master plan that meets the requirements of SO I to EPA within 30 days after receipt of EPA's comments on CUC's initial submission.

There are eight conditions specifically set for Stipulated Order II.

1. CUC is required to use the recently approved $4.05 million grant from the U.S. Department of Interior solely for SO II work, as approved by EPA, and consistent with the terms and conditions of the Interior grant.

2. CUC shall comply with all secondary containment requirements in SO II by June 15, 2010. CUC and EPA shall confer regularly so that this requirement can be met.

3. In the event the facility response plan is not approved by EPA, CUC must resubmit an approvable FRP within 30 days from EPA's response.

4. CUC shall submit to EPA a tank cleanout plan and schedule for tanks 101, 102, and 105, as well as the Rota tanks, that meet all requirements of SO II within 30 days from Feb. 24, 2010.

5. CUC shall fully execute the EPA-approved tank cleanout plan for tank 104, which must be cleaned and whose oil must be removed and properly disposed of by June 30, 2010.

6. CUC shall implement the EPA-approved power plants 1 and 2 work plan, and comply with all requirements in SO II by June 15, 2010.

7. CUC shall comply with all power plant 4 work plan requirements in SO II within 30 days from Feb. 24, 2010.

8. CUC shall contract and design the CUC pipeline by July 30, 2010. A new CUC pipeline shall be constructed by Feb. 24, 2011.

CUC and the U.S. government said they will continue to wok together to seek compliance with the Stipulated Orders and environmental laws.

OVER

From Page 1

hazardous materials because of the ordnance, among other things.

The cleanup of the 624,000 square meters of public land in Marpi and its end use plan have been a contentious subject between private citizens and DPL since last year because of a lack of public hearing prior to the actual land clearing, its negative impact on a tourist site, and the lack of a major siting permit, among other issues.

Public Lands acting Secretary Oscar M. Babauta yesterday told *Saipan Tribune* that the homestead project has been "shelved" because of lack of resources to move on with it at this time, just like what former DPL Secretary John S. DelRosario told the public several times last year.

On Wednesday night, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DPL officials met with members of the public to provide updates on the project, and receive feedback from them.

Community members present at the meeting, including Ruth Tighe, former House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, and former Rep. Tina Sablan, were particularly concerned about the "end use" of the area, now that it has been cleaned up of unexploded war ordnance, thanks to a $550,000 Brownfields Program grant from EPA.

DPL project manager Franz Reksid, during the community meeting, repeatedly told the crowd that the "CNMI government cannot proceed with the homestead development now."

Debbie Schechter, section chief of the USEPA-Region 9's Brownfields and Site Assessment Section, and Pankaj Arora of the Brownfields Program USEPA-Region 9, said "EPA has no authority over local land use decisions."

"EPA doesn't have a role or say to define what the end use of the land should be. That is up to the local government and the citizens," he said.

Arora said EPA has also learned from the Marpi project, including making sure that recipients of its grants comply with conditions of the grant funding.

Community members also expressed concern over the re-vegetation efforts and the appearance of invasive vines.

Babauta said he and other DPL officials will meet today with the visiting EPA officials to talk about the Marpi project, among other things.

Trash, ordnance

DPL contracted Ampro for the removal of unexploded ordnance from Marpi, an area which was used by the U.S. military immediately after the capture of Saipan during World War II.

The site was used to store thousands of tons of ordnance for the impending invasion of the Japanese mainland.

John Scott, president of Ampro, said yesterday that Ampro removed over 160,000 lbs. of scrap metals and other man-made trash including cars and trucks, in addition to over 12,000 pieces of unexploded war ordnance.

Most of them were projectiles, grenades, and mortar rounds.

He said Ampro is now working on the soil sampling and analysis plan which needs EPA's approval.

"Once we submit that and we get their approval, then we would proceed with the sampling," he said, adding that the whole process, from sampling to the laboratory test results, will eat up another two to three weeks.

Arora said DPL would have to take some remedial actions if soil would be found with high concentration of hazardous materials. The remedial actions should also take into consideration the end-use plan for the area.

Economic benefits

Scott said nobody at the public meeting on Wednesday night talked about the economic benefits of having the Marpi area cleaned up of unexploded ordnance and other debris.

The bulk or $500,000 of the $550,000 Brownfields grant that EPA awarded to DPL went to Ampro's contract to assess and cleanup the Marpi area, while DPL used the remaining amount for in-house costs associated with the project.

"Six contract companies and some 32 employees worked on the project. The direct tax benefits from Ampro alone is over $25,000. The tax benefits from the subcontractors are also in tens of thousands of dollars, and all money is spent on island," he said.

DO THE

From Page 1

"It was the people of the CNMI who lobbied, petitioned, and negotiated for a monument while the political leaders and the people of Guam opposed one," said Friends of the Monument vice chair Agnes McPhetres.

McPhetres was one of those scheduled to testify before the Subcommittee in a Feb. 25 hearing in Washington, D.C. on two bills related to the Marine Monument.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's H.R. 3511 calls for the Monument visitors center to be built in the CNMI, while Subcommittee chair Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo's H.R. 4493 wants a Monument center in Guam.

The hearing was at 1am Friday, Feb. 26, Saipan time.

Fitial, who was also scheduled to testify, said "it must be made clear that a visitor and science center was negotiated and promised to the CNMI in return for our support of the Marianas Monument."

"While I certainly hope that both the CNMI and Guam will ultimately have visitor and science centers, I firmly believe that it is incumbent upon the federal government to honor its negotiated obligation to the CNMI with all due respect and fairness for the people of the CNMI," he said in a prepared three-page statement.

Sablan said yesterday that promises made to the CNMI must be honored.

He reiterated that he was not a party to the negotiations with the White House that resulted in the Monument and it would not be appropriate for him to try to reopen the Presidential Proclamation or try to renegotiate its terms and conditions.

"But I do think that I have the responsibility to make sure this Congress does what is necessary so that the terms and conditions of the Presidential Proclamation are met and the promises made to the people of the Northern Marianas by the White House are kept," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail.

'Let NOAA take over'

Friends of the Monument also asked Bordallo's Subcommittee to explore improving upon the Monument declaration, including by transferring the managerial authority to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Marine National Sanctuaries, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"WESPAC should also be removed from management for the Islands Unit and replaced with ONMSP, whose mission is more in line with conservation and the Friends vision for the monument. ONMSP is also more sensitive to local concerns and needs than WESPAC," McPhetres said in her testimony.

"H.R. 4493 would take the social, educational, and economic benefits promised to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and turn them over to Guam. The Friends oppose this change," said McPhetres in her three-page prepared testimony to Bordallo's Subcommittee.

Friends of the Monument said the Bush administration promised that the Monument would benefit education, research, enrich culture, support tourism, and protect the CNMI's fragile marine environment.

The group said CNMI people were specifically promised that the CNMI would become the headquarters for the Monument, including the site of a Marianas Trench Visitors Center.

Through the grassroots movement's efforts since January 2007 and with the support of CNMI leaders, in negotiation with the White House, President George W. Bush signed a law creating the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument in January 2009.

"We trust that the Subcommittee will do the right thing and place the headquarters for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument in the CNMI," said McPhetres, founder and president for 17 years of Northern Marianas College.

The vast majority of the monument is located in the waters surrounding the CNMI, including its three northernmost islands of Uracas, Maug and Asuncion.

'Pull HR 4493 from consideration'

The NMI Democratic Party also submitted a one-page testimony to Bordallo, supporting the establishment of a Marine Monument visitors center in the CNMI, "not on Guam."

"Our directors request that you pull H.R. 4493 from consideration by the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife," said Democratic Party chair Jesse Torres.

He said the CNMI people collected over 6,000 signatures in support of a no-take marine protected area in 2008 and looked forward to the educational, research, and economic development opportunities a monument promised.

'Increase protections'

Besides calling for the establishment of a Marine Monument visitors center in the CNMI, Friends of the Monument also asked the Subcommittee to improve upon the Monument declaration.

Proposed improvements include increasing the scope and scale of the protections, closing some loopholes that allow harmful extractive activities within the monument, and transferring managerial authority to the NOAA's Office of Marine National Sanctuaries.

"The Friends recommend that the borders of the Islands Unit be extended to include the entire United States Economic Exclusive Zone surrounding the islands of Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion," McPhetres said in her testimony.

She said a map of the Monument gives the impression that an ocean area the size of Michigan has been protected. However, the Trench Unit and the Volcanic Unit of the monument are not marine protected areas.

McPhetres said the protections for the Islands Unit, although restricting commercial fishing, still allow for harmful extractive activities.

"The position of the Friends is that the Islands Unit of the monument should only be used to enhance culture, promote research, advance education, and protect the environment. We recommend that the protections afforded the monument be strengthened," she added.

McPhetres also said the CNMI's population has a greater need for ocean literacy, scientific education, and research to lift the CNMI's educational standards. She said placing the Monument headquarters in the CNMI would help diversify the local economy and its ailing tourism industry.

Munson finds man guilty of attempting to unlawfully enter Guam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson yesterday found guilty the last of the 22 defendants accused of attempting to unlawfully enter Guam through a boat.

During a one-day bench trial, Munson found Shiguang Li, a Chinese male national, guilty of one count of attempted improper entry, a misdemeanor offense.

Munson ordered the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report and set the sentencing for June 1, 2010.

The judge remanded Li into the custody of the U.S. Marshal's Office to await the sentencing hearing.

The maximum penalty for the offense is six months in prison and removal from the U.S. after serving the sentence.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Li, told *Saipan Tribune* that they will appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

"He wanted to go through a trial, he believed in his innocence. And the judge found otherwise. So we'll take all the necessary post-trial steps, including trying to get him released on bail even though Judge Munson denied it, and appeal to the 9th Circuit," Berline said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler presented two witnesses during the trial.

The first witness testified briefly just to introduce records.

The second witness was U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Erfel Matanguihan.

Matanguihan acted undercover as the boat captain during the operation. He testified how the meetings took place on Saipan with some Chinese nationals who wanted to unlawfully enter Guam through a boat.

Munson

Schuler played in court a video in which Matanguihan explained to some defendants how they would proceed to Guam.

Schuler, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune,* said the U.S. government is very pleased with the result.

"The government is satisfied. We presented the case, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had investigated and they did a great job. We are happy to be able to present that evidence to the judge," he said.

Schuler said Li was the last of the 22 defendants that were charged with misdemeanor.

The U.S. government filed separate charges against 24 Chinese nationals who were arrested by ICE agents last Jan. 5 for trying to unlawfully enter Guam from Saipan through a boat.

Twenty-one of the 22 defendants charged with attempted improper entry had already entered a guilty plea and subsequently sentenced to one-year probation.

Those who have not pleaded guilty are Qingmei Cheng, Jian Li, and Shiguang Li.

Jian Li, 32, and Qingmei Cheng, 28, were indicted with 22 counts of attempting to bring aliens to the U.S.

Cheng, is the controversial masseuse of Governor Benigno Fitial. She and Jian Li, 32, were allegedly behind the attempt to smuggle the 22 defendants.

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Leonardo Rapadas said yesterday that this is an important verdict and necessary to deter foreign nationals in the CNMI from attempting to enter Guam without lawful authority.

"The Department of Justice is intent on investigating and prosecuting these cases, and foreign residents of the CNMI need to understand the consequences that can result from entering or attempting to enter Guam illegally," Rapadas said.

Fund's investment consultant, money managers' performance reports out soon

The performance reports for 2009 of the NMI Retirement Fund's investment consultant and money managers will soon be available for public review.

Attorney Viola Alepuyo, counsel for Fund Board of Trustee, said yesterday that the reports of the Fund's investment consultant, Merrill Lynch, and money management firms, will soon be available on the Fund's website, for any member of the public that failed to attend the recent meetings.

Alepuyo said the Fund Board of Directors recently concluded the three-day Annual Investment Manager Meeting.

She that, at the public meeting, representatives of Merrill Lynch presented information concerning the performance of the market overall for 2009, and reviewed with the Trustees, the allocation of the Fund's investments.

"Representatives of eight of the money management firms were on hand to present more detailed explanations of their performance for the year, including evaluation against their designated benchmarks," said the lawyer in a press statement.

The Fund's Board will continue its annual meeting on March 5, 9am at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"The meeting is open to the public and there will be a period for public comment," Alepuyo said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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DPS awards boat crew for rescuing stranded swimmers

'Heroes' also responsible for retrieving drowning victim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section awarded two persons for their "heroic deeds" when they rescued two stranded swimmers and retrieved the body of a drowning victim during separate incidents recently on Saipan.

DPS Deputy Commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, Capt. Lawrence Camacho, and Boating Safety Section commanding officer Sgt. Bernard Santos handed the certificates of appreciation to Judd Palacios and Vison Takahashi during a brief ceremony at BSS office in Smiling Cove Marina Wednesday afternoon.

Palacios is a boat captain for Blue Seas Sports, while Takahashi is his crew. DPS also gave a certificate of appreciation to Blue Seas Sports.

DPS spokesman Eric David said BSS awarded Palacios and Takahashi for being "good Samaritans" by assisting two stranded swimmers—Nobuyoshi Senga and Sharla Schroeder.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Judd Palacios, right, and Vison Takahashi, of the Blue Seas Sports, pose with Boating Safety officers after they received certificates of appreciation for their "heroic deeds" when they rescued two stranded swimmers and retrieved the body of a drowning victim.

David said Palacios and Takahasi were also the same crewmembers who discovered the body of drowning victim James Ocha at the Sugar Dock.

"We also gave an award to Blue Seas to recognize and appreciate their business by lending a hand to the department," David said.

Last Feb. 9, Blue Seas dive boat and its captain, Palacios, and crew, Takahashi, rescued the 44-year-old Senga who was stranded outside the reef line of Pak Pak Beach in San Antonio.

Preliminary investigation showed that Senga and a friend were snorkeling in the lagoon of Pak Pak Beach.

While Senga was along the reef line, big waves and strong current swept him out the reef line. He tried several times to swim back into the lagoon, but failed due to the rough water condition.

While Senga was floating and waiting in the water for the rescue, he spotted a passing dive boat (Blue Seas) and started waving and shouting for help.

The dive boat pulled up next to Senga and its crews Palacios and Takahashi picked him up. Boating Safety's rescue boat later intercepted the dive boat. The officers took Senga into the rescue boat and transported him safely to Smiling Cove Marina where they conducted their investigation.

Last Feb. 13, Palacios and Takahashi on board a boat also rescued an injured Schoeder who was stranded at the cliff line of Ladder Beach.

Investigation showed that at 3:30pm Schroeder and some friends were at the Ladder Beach where they decided to walk on the ledge.

Several minutes later into their walk, huge waves came crashing. Schroeder got swept out to the open water, while her friends managed to hold on the rocks.

Schroeder tried to swim back to the ledges, but she was afraid that she might smash against the rocks. She decided to swim out to the sea.

After a few minutes, a passing Blue Sea Sports vessel came and Palacios and Takahashi rescued the stranded swimmer.

Last Saturday, it was Palacios and Takahashi on board the Blue Seas Sports who reportedly found the body of 44-year-old Ocha who drowned at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa.

Investigation showed that at 1:25pm Palacios called DPS 911 and reported a possible drowning victim they found at Sugar Dock.

Further investigation showed that at 1:20pm, Palacios and his boat's crew were exiting the Sugar Dock channel to conduct a check out dive with some customers.

Palacios and his crew came across a Styrofoam box floating southwest of the channel. They pulled alongside the box and noticed nobody fishing around it.

As they were picking up the box, they noticed a rope tied to an object below the water.

As first, Palacios and his crew thought it was a large fish, but as it surfaced the water, they were surprised to see a motionless body.

From there, they secured the fisherman later identified as Ocha and immediately traveled back to Sugar Dock where they called police.

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Pai: Probe request on NI mayor's office referred to OPA investigation unit

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Public Auditor Mike Pai confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* that the written request received by his office on the alleged "abuses" and "wrongdoings" at the newly transferred Northern Island Mayor's Office in Capital Hill has been referred to the agency's investigation unit this week.

It was early this month when a concerned citizen urged OPA to investigate the newly transferred office and Ramona Rebuenog, who was initially declared winner in the mayoralty election but who was unseated by the Supreme Court and ordered a special poll for the position.

The tipster disclosed that Rebuenog, despite the court order, has continuously occupied the position even when the office was moved to the former Washington Representative Office.

Last Wednesday, Acting Governor Eloy Inos said the office has been vacant since the court order and that the Governor's Office did not delegate anyone in an acting position.

He said the office is currently being manned by a clerk who receives phone calls and other messages for the mayor's office.

The governor set the special election for the Northern Islands on March 27 where over a hundred registered voters are expected to cast their votes.

Last Friday, the election commission certified Covenant Party's Rebuenog and independent candidate Tobias Aldan as candidates for Northern Islands mayoralty elections. The two were the same candidates in the general election last year.

It can be recalled that Rebuenog sued the Commonwealth Election Commission along with winning mayoral candidate Tobias Aldan and requested the trial court award her as mayor of the Northern Islands.

When the case was presented to the trial court, Rebuenog was awarded the position.

Aldan, however, appealed to the Supreme Court which overturned the trial court ruling and ordered the election commission to conduct a new mayoralty race for the island.

The election commission also approved the designation of its office customer service area as the official polling place for the election and waived the $250 filing fee for the two candidates for the position.

Based on the CEC record, a total of 131 are expected to participate in the special poll. The number slightly dropped after 18 were disqualified by the court. In the last general elections, CEC posted 149 total registered voters in Northern Islands.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

FEB. 26, 1999

Cash-tight CPA hikes fees

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will increase fees on fuel flowage, and use of incinerator, implement parking fee as well as seek the immediate return of some 58,000 sq. m. of public land to the agency as additional sources of revenue. These would provide the ports authority some $1.2 million in income for one year, said Carlos H. Salas, executive director. Such measures are to be carried out by the financially troubled ports authority in a move to save its operation and pay for its financial obligations. Furthermore, the ports authority will encourage employees who are eligible to retire to avail of the early retirement program to reduce contribution on the Retirement Fund, impose more restrictions on the use of cellular phones and government vehicle.

Kara thumbs down raise for DPH counsel

The contract of the legal counsel for the Department of Public Health has been thrown into a controversy after the Attorney General's Office decided against granting a salary increase, a decision that has caught the ire of a senator. Acting chief government lawyer Maya B. Kara told reporters yesterday the office could not grant the request of Celeste Andersen, assistant attorney general, because of the current financial situation of the CNMI government. But a source, who requested anonymity, said it was likely Kara chose not to renew her contract because of personal differences, claiming Andersen was not part of the circle within the AGO.

FEB. 26, 2001

Tests confirm fuel leak at Saipan airport

Soil samples taken from areas near Saipan International Airport disclosed fuel vapor contamination which warrants immediate implementation of extensive clean-up operations. Private solid and hazardous waste management firm, Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting uncovered evidence of "subsurface" contamination following the comprehensive water and soil testing analysis. APEC environmental scientist C. Thomas Polevich said cleanup operations can now be implemented as construction of special extraction wells begun to pull the contaminants to the surface.

Teno keeps hands off on Wiseman's appointment

Amid allegations of bribery on Superior Court associate judge appointee David A. Wiseman, the administration will take a hands-off policy to allow the Legislature to decide on its own. In an interview with reporters, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio disclosed that no plans has been laid out to help Mr. Wiseman get out of the barrage of accusations hurled against him. In fact, the governor is giving the Senate Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation Committee a free hand to determine the culpability of the lawyer on bribery assaults filed against him.

FEB. 26, 2002

MVA to cultivate China market

The Marianas Visitors Authority vowed to give its full attention to China in hopes to cultivate a new segment of tourist market in the Northern Marianas amid the slowdown of the Japan economy. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan on Friday said three major points would be discussed during the scheduled board meeting of the tourism agency this week, including funding assistance for an effective marketing tool in China. This, following confirmation from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino executives who visited him Friday that an official agreement had been reached between the hotel management and the China Southern Air on direct charter flights from Guangzhou, China, to Saipan starting April.

Shoring up the garment industry in the NMI

In 1999 alone, the apparel manufacturing industry in the CNMI contributed $72.8 million to the government's coffers, or about 34 percent of the government's $216 million revenues for that year. Since 48 percent of all government revenue is spent on personnel alone, that $72.8 million was enough to pay for the salaries of 1,680 government workers. These were just two of the benefits that the Commonwealth gets from the garment industry that were cited by members of the Saipan Garment Manufacturing Association during a presentation to members of the 13th Legislature last week. Citing a Burger and Comer Economic Report, SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce told lawmakers that the bulk of the $72.8 million that the government earns from the garment sector comes from user fees and excise taxes.

Road leading to AMP to be closed today

The Department of Public Safety will close the stretch of road from the American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan today, Feb. 26, from 4pm to 5:30pm.

The road closure is for the Public School System's Anti Bullying Parade, which will be held at the assigned time on the said location.

DPS is advising the public to utilize all secondary roads or the main Middle Road of Garapan for travel during this duration.

"We urge all motorist that if you have to travel between American Memorial Park and the Carolinian Affairs Office, please be alert and cautions' during this event. The Department of Public Safety's Traffic personnel will be at the area to guide you," a statement from DPS read.

For more information, contact DPS public information office Eric David at 664-9022/23. ***(PR)***

'We'll make sure POB will reach finish line this time'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos said the administration will do everything to ensure that a legislative initiative will be passed to allow the government to borrow $200 million to pay off its debt to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Inos confirmed this to *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday after a meeting with the Retirement Fund board of trustees, investment consultant Merrill Lynch, and the agency's fixed income money manager Richmond Capital.

He also believes that this is the best time to pursue the pension obligation bond when the market is good.

"For now, it is… [the right timing for POB]. Today is better than yesterday… and tomorrow could be even better. But regardless how good the market is, if we don't have the authorization it is meaningless," he said, alluding to the constitutional amendments that are required for the measure.

Inos described Wednesday's presentation as "very positive and enlightening."

He said the present market situation indicates that bonds are being sold at lower rates.

Inos

The legislative initiative which was introduced but never passed by the 16th Legislature proposed to add a new section to Article 10 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the government to issue pension obligation bonds. If approved, it will take the government 30 years to pay off the debt.

The initiative also reflects that the government may issue pension obligation bonds in an amount—excluding refunding bonds—not to exceed $200 million.

Fund board chairman Sixto Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* that they are in favor of any means to help reduce the government's debt to the Fund, including supporting the pension obligation bond.

In June 2009, the Supreme Court ruled that the government has $231.6 million in unpaid employer's contribution to the Fund and allowed both parties to negotiate for payment.

As of December last year, *Saipan Tribune* learned that this debt jumped to $280 million.

On top of the 20 percent contribution rate and about $100,000 monthly taxes remitted to the Fund, trustees are seeking additional payment from the executive branch.

The CNMI government reported a continuous decline in its collections and revenues for the fiscal year. Due to this, austerity holidays are being proposed for the fiscal year operation.

But Inos assured the Fund that the central government is seriously looking at other sources within the general fund that might be transferred to the Retirement Fund.

"At this point, we don't have anything in specific…but we will do it to help the Fund with the required pension payments," Inos added.

The board of trustees earlier indicated that payment from the government would help the agency from taking out money from the investment fund for pension obligations.

For the past three years, $35 million to $40 million has been taken out per year from the Fund. Last fiscal year total drawdown amounted to $43 million.

If the POB bill passes both the House and Senate, it would be placed on the ballot for ratification by the electorate.

The three-day Fund money managers' meeting concluded Wednesday with Merrill Lynch reporting good market performance and a positive forecast of the market for the Retirement Fund.

It also admitted that if not for the continuous drawdown to pay for the agency's obligation to members, the investment fund would be much higher than what it is to date, which is $335 million.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
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EDITORIAL

Shifting gears

Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda will ladle out healthy portions of mea culpa before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Wednesday. "Quite frankly, I fear the pace at which we have grown may have been too quick," he will say, according to prepared testimony. "I would like to point out here that Toyota's priority has traditionally been the following: first, safety; second, quality; and third, volume. These priorities became confused ... ." That tradition to which Mr. Toyoda refers has run off the road.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, sudden acceleration of Toyota and Lexus cars is to blame for at least 34 deaths over the past decade. This and faulty braking systems in the Prius hybrid have led the automaker to recall 8.5 million cars since fall. Problems with accelerator pedals forced the company to halt production and sale of eight Toyota models last month. The company's troubles mounted Monday when federal prosecutors and the Securities and Exchange Commission opened separate investigations. And conflicting testimony Tuesday highlighted that neither Toyota nor regulators yet know for certain the cause of sudden acceleration.

NHTSA is also in the cross hairs. Reports have portrayed a regulator as too cozy with the regulated. Either NHTSA discounted problems or depended upon the car company to voluntarily take steps to correct them. In one internal Toyota presentation last year, the company bragged that it was able to address complaints about sudden acceleration in the Lexus ES 350 and Toyota Camry by securing a limited recall related to the floor mats. Avoiding a finding of defect saved Toyota $100 million.

Recalls are more common than many people realize. Last year, there were 492 vehicle recalls, down from 684 in 2008. And as plaintiffs' attorneys circle, we share the wish, expressed by Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour in an op-ed article, that congressional inquisitors maintain some sense of perspective. The U.S. government, especially as part-owner of two competing car companies, must take care not to seem to be using Toyota's troubles to benefit the domestic industry.

Nevertheless, Congress is right to ask Mr. Toyoda why his company did not move more quickly to address concerns. "You have my personal commitment that Toyota will work vigorously and unceasingly to restore the trust of our customers," Mr. Toyoda plans to say. It's a tall order.

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Where there's smoke, there's smoke

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

If you're wondering why there is always so much talk, and so little action on the industrial front in the CNMI, I will tell you how the whole game works.

As in any game, there are two kinds of players in the "investment" gig here: There are the lightweights and there are the heavies. The lightweights are living proof of the saying, "If you don't know who the sucker at the table is, then you're the sucker."

Your average lightweight "investor" will usually get hooked by one of our tub-thumpers, who will mention the influence he can buy with the local patronage barons. Then the lightweight will eventually find himself delivered to the offices of a few barons, who will express Great Enthusiasm for the proposed project, and will usually mention that government subsidies or other "consideration" can be employed. The costs of, shall we say, ahem, securing the consideration are not mentioned at this early stage.

Flush with visions of success, these lightweights will often send out press releases just to puff up some buzz for the gig. The idea here is to generate so much community interest that it will box the patronage barons into being cooperative.

That's a total amateur move, I've seen it a lot, and it always backfires.

Why? Well, for one thing, you're not going to beat a patronage pro on his own turf. For another, the publicity about fantasy (or real) projects is actually good for the patronage guys, since it gives the impression of Great Vision and Progress and Important Attention from International Investors. That aggrandizing juice is all up front, nobody cares what happens afterwards, and we're not exactly known for long attention spans in the economic realm.

In the minority of cases where the "investor" really does have money, then he's got to pay up for the "consideration," and we all know what that means.

So if you're wondering why there is so much bluster about economics here, and absolutely NOTHING to show for it (except the occasional federal indictment), well, that's how it works.

OK, I mentioned the heavies earlier. They've long ago learned about the CNMI's ways, and they usually avoid us, but not always, and I remember when a couple of heavies from afar were doing on the ground due diligence. I got to do a little work for both of them. They did things the opposite of the lightweights: No tub-thumping hustlers, no meetings with local politicians, no press releases, no attention, no blabbering, and, above all, no taking anything on faith, since these guys verified everything. These guys came (quietly) and went (quietly) and left nary a trace in the sand. In these two cases, neither company put a project here; one opted for Guam, the other, as far as I know, didn't opt for anywhere for that particular project.

So, business wise, what's left? Well, the guys who are already here, of course. The only guys that can really get anything done are the serious players who have been in the CNMI a long time and are established enough to have some genuine clout. But even a lot of these guys have scaled way back and put their assets and attention in more business-friendly venues, so the CNMI is succeeding in bleeding itself to death on this front, too.

I've ignored micro-enterprise thus far, so let's look at it. If somebody wants to open a very small business it's quite easy. In fact, the CNMI has some very capable entrepreneurs, and a lively discussion of related matters, which is great. But there's not enough of an economy to allow a lot of small businesses to flourish and grow; even if the demand is there, the capital to expand is pretty much absent. At some point, you need a functional economy with some money floating around to enable the little guys to grow into becoming medium guys; that's why "capitalism" is called "capitalism," not "labor-ism."

This is a problem, by the way, that the Third World has: The patronage bureaucracies keep a firm lid on most business activity, while allowing micro-enterprise to survive since it's not a threat to where the real money is made; this keeps the capital and power firmly in the hands of the political class, while its front men placate the public with perpetual fairy tales about all the promising things on the horizon. I've seen this model operate in a lot of places.

It is not for me to say how closely the CNMI has emulated this model, you can ponder that on your own. But when it comes to chronic economic smokescreens, where there's smoke, that's all there is: smoke.

Next week we'll ponder this: Can this situation be changed?

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Shanghai 2010

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

"Better City, Better Life" is the theme of the Shanghai 2010 World Expo slated for the first of May to the last day of October, 2010. If the Peoples Republic of China's support of the Beijing Olympics in 2008, and its extravagant showcasing of the nation's strength and confidence on National Day 2009 are any indication, the Shanghai 2010 World Expo will be a stunning international Olympics of Science, Technology and Economics, the biggest ever of this international exposition that began in 1851 in London.

The Shanghai World Expo will be held in Pudong (*dong* means 'east' of the river Pu, *xi* means "west" of Pu, the Bund side of the city called Puxi). I saw Pudong in 1989 as just a wide expanse of rice paddies. Ten years later, the International Airport opened, now equipped with a maglev train. Pudong hosts four parks, including the Jinqiao Export and Processing Zone, the Lujiazui Finance, and Trade Zone with its famous Jinmao Tower Observatory and the Oriental Pearl Radio and TV tower that is the skyline's signature, the Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone, and the Zhangjiang High Tech Park. Anyone who is anybody in banking and finance, trade and industry in the world, has located an office or branch in Pudong.

The five-square kilometer World Expo site consists of five zones: three national and international zones, a commercial zone, and the urban centers' zone. A UFO-shaped performance Center anchors the site, and the China pavilion is a formidable wooden red building that looks like an inverted pyramid, but is actually meant to look like a crown. Of the host domestic pavilions, the crown is joined by the pavilions of *Aomen* (Macau), *Xiang Gang* (Hong Kong), and Taiwan. Domestic exhibits from other provinces are focused on their urban centers. Over 200 countries and international agencies are registered to participate in the Expo, with more than 40 pavilions now pictured in the official website in the Internet.

Notable among the pavilions, Belgium's has an interior shaped like a brain cell, symbolic of human intentionality in urban transport and communications. A functional chocolate factory is in the facility, and the world-renown Belgian chocolate will be distributed free to all those who visit. Belgium's diamond industry is on display, and regular lotteries will be conducted to award gems to lucky ones that come through the Pavilion's doors. (Visitors might petition the Belgian bourse to quit maintaining an artificial price on the gem by hoarding 90 percent of the supply while miners exploit labor in the countries where the mineral is mined! My two-cent piece.)

The Swiss constructed a *yin-yang* of rural and urban connection, with rural green grass on the roof of the structure and urban service centers on the ground. A little slice of the Swiss Alps is on view with emphasis on technologies that guarantee air and water quality and sustainable urban constructions.

Japan has what looks like an inflatable tent, an irregular dirigible, or a huge uneven computer mouse, made of thin film that lets light through, with holes that allow air circulation, elements designers offer to alleviate urban stress. The pavilion bravely exhibits the history of China-Japan relations, a rather challenging undertaking given the controversial and contentious nature of the debate on the subject. Audio-visual, culinary, tactile and olfactory senses of Japanese culture are on display along with technological examples on Japan response is to environmental issues.

The balanced city is Germany's theme, the balance between living creatures and inanimate nature. Designers took on a motif not usually associated with Teutonic ethos, of individuals in their diversity against the requirements of balanced communal connection through innovative German technology. The pavilion is a building "that moves," highly interactive with visitors. The exhibits include technologies for constructing new buildings and the restoring old ones. Several rooms, unique on their own as stand alones, are connected, and yes, German beer is served.

If the Germans glory in the discipline of their science, the Italians flourish in the art and romance of their lifestyle. Stylish architecture made of transparent concrete walls attends to Roman culture and beauty, friendship, food and *la dolce vita.* The City of Man, the Italian way, is the eternal city's urban offering. On the other hand, small but financial heavy Luxembourg bask in its pride that small is indeed beautiful. A small forest focuses on being not only fashionably 'green', but ecologically so, and sustainable fortitude in finance is reflected on a fortress made of recycled products.

Meanwhile, Australia showcases the theme of the journey, discovery and pleasurable living. A theatre is the main stay of the pavilion, and with the Sydney Opera House being a landmark, a human 'walkabout' is not an inappropriate image. On the other side of the globe, fierce individuality associated with the Dutch led to a pavilion without doors. Designed like a street that looks like a roller coaster, the builders themselves call it a crazy pavilion. The Art Deco structure has windmills and tulips!

Description of other pavilions are on the Net. The target of this promising exposition is the use of innovative structures for building new style of urban living. With 55 percent of the world's population now living in urban centers as opposed to only 2 percent two centuries ago, the Shanghai Expo focuses on intentional city life that balances the separation of people and environment, people and other people, and people and technology. The Expo's emblem is an image of three people'you, me, and we. The mascot is derived from the Chinese character for *ren,* "people," two strokes representing a human leaning on another. It is also called *Hao bao,* a treasure of the sea, to point to the coastal location of Shanghai.

I was Pudong-held prior to the Beijing 2008 when an earthquake interrupted a Sichuan trek. The Bund was a mangle of unfinished construction. No more. The area between Suzhou creek to Xinkaihe road is now a pedestrian-only promenade with traffic hidden underneath. With a cold glass of *pai jiu,* the promenade beats lagoon-side this year.

My Kuomintang refugee neighbors in the '50s piqued my interest on China and when Mama opened my Postal Savings account, I started saving for a visit to *Zhong Guo,* the Middle Kingdom. It took a while. With the pocket money my SVES students have, and the affordability of air travel, a trip to Shanghai is worth considering this year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to Congresswoman Bordallo

I am a disable veteran from the Island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. While I presently reside on Guam due to medical needs, I consider the CNMI my permanent home.

At the onset, I would like to register my total support to H.R. 3511, introduced by the esteem delegate from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Congressman Gregorio M. Sablan. While he is new and the first delegate to represent the CNMI in congress, his exemplary diligence to protect, honor, and improve the welfare of the CNMI people should be commended.

Since the inception of the Marians Trench Marine National Monument Project during the Bush Administration, while divided at first; the people of the CNMI participated in the formulation process of the project until proclaimed as such in January of 2009. Since we carried the ball clear through to the goal line, it is only fair and proper that the CNMI be allowed to exploit any benefit as a reward, especially since we are members of the same American family.

What's more, CNMI management of the monument appears more appropriate in view of the fact that there is a marine resources protection program in place surrounding four of the northern most islands of the CNMI, Uracas, Farallon De Pajaros, Maug, and Asuncion, as well as the proximity to the monument and a greater area covered by CNMI's EEZ territorial waters. Therefore, building the Mariana Trench Visitors Center in the CNMI would provide a complimentary and collaborative approach for research and development. As stated by Mrs. Agnes McPheters in the *Saipan Tribune* news paper, "It makes no sense to house the management of the biological resources of the monument on Guam when (most) of the resources are in the CNMI." More importantly, the CNMI struggled to see the monument through, allow us to pursue and develop its potential. We ask you not to sweep this opportunity from under our feet.

Gov. Felix Camacho's, State of the Island Address, just this month, stated in part:

"Over the last seven years, our ties to our brothers and sisters in the neighboring islands of the CNMI have become closer than ever. As we recognize the combined strength of the Marianas Islands on matters of mutual interest and benefit, Guam and the CNMI should once again seek reunification.

As one Marianas, with greater representation and inclusion as American citizens, we will only strengthen our people and communities."

It is quite disheartening to hear the governor of Guam's vision of stronger, unified Marianas, and yet, in the nation's capital, the esteem delegate from Guam is attempting to reap benefit derived from the struggles of the CNMI people. Any effort or even mention of it, of Marianas unification must first be sealed with transparent mutual respect and collaborative effort to develop our economy and evolve as people equally. Absent of this is fruitless, especially since the people of Guam rejected reunification decades ago.

In light of the above, I respectfully request madman chairwoman, not only to support H.S. 3511, but also to withdraw H.S. 4493, introduced by the delegate from Guam.

Andrew M. Ramos
Rota

Re: Ambrose Bennett's diatribe

Mr. Bennett has obviously been riled up by what I had to say about Article XII. He even went as far as to declare that I am not an intellectual then labels my views oxymoron on indigenous land rights.

I have never claimed to be an "intellectual" though I have been the conscience of my people, after a three-decade stint in the Op-Ed pages of local newspapers, scribbling in both English and Chamorro. I don't know if you've done this, but I have never read anything from you in Swahili.

Then my friend asserted that I am a bully. Not quite, Mr. Bennett, though I have been and still bullish on issues where people without standing like yourself persistently perpetuate hegemonic neocolonialism as the order of business. No sir, we have no plans to roll out our precious fine mat to welcome putative intellectuals for it would be derisory. We come from a culture of humility.

We have learned and will propagate the ancient truths of our existence. This being said, you are the bully for sticking your filthy nose into an issue that is the sole preserve of the indigenous people in the disposition of their land. Evidently, is there anything in your blood quantum that is either Chamorro or Carolinian? And is this real reality or perceptual? We have no space in our hearts for ugly demagogues in these isles.

You then assailed my views as an oxymoron. Pacific Island professors (these are PhDs, sir) who teach at the Universities of Hawaii and the South Pacific can no longer teach the "hopelessness" mind set to their indigenous students. Neither are they prepared to do so in perpetuity. In brief, Mr. Bennett, for as long as you're someone else other than an indigenous of these isles, you will never fully understand the word "huñgan." We're not ready to roll out the carpet of alienation, dispossession, marginalization, landlessness, and total displacement of our people.

This hopelessness is sitting front and center in the teachings of the ways of conquerors when in fact we have our very own. It is for this very reason that I call your viewpoint that of an impostor and perpetrator perpetuating the same mind set of hopelessness. And please tell me that these learned island professors who have broken out of their cocoon against the predominant conquerors' culture are wrong. These are islanders who have compiled their essays on imperialism imposed upon the indigenous people who now say, *No Mas*! It is your viewpoint wrapped in all its disorientation that is the oxymoron.

Someone once whispered that you claim to be a constitutional scholar. Wow! What an accomplishment in self-ordination. But it still is mind boggling that you were incapable of understanding that Native Americans have been given special rights. Is there a reason for this, sir? I asked for your perception of whether the U.S. Constitution is an inclusive document that took into account the indigenous rights of Native Americans. If it did, then it stands to reason that all public lands across the country would have been returned to Native Americans.

There's nothing that would benefit the indigenous people from your peregrinations. Nor would we proselytize your predatory warped sense of equality and not for an intellectual giant like yourself who can't even figure out your culture and lingo. Thanks for the interesting exchange.

John DelRosario Jr.
Koblerville

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲84° ▼74°	▲84° ▼73°	▲85° ▼72°	▲86° ▼74°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲82	▼72
Palau	Sunny	▲89	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Sunny	▲88	▼80
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Sunny	▲87	▼74
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78

Around The Globe

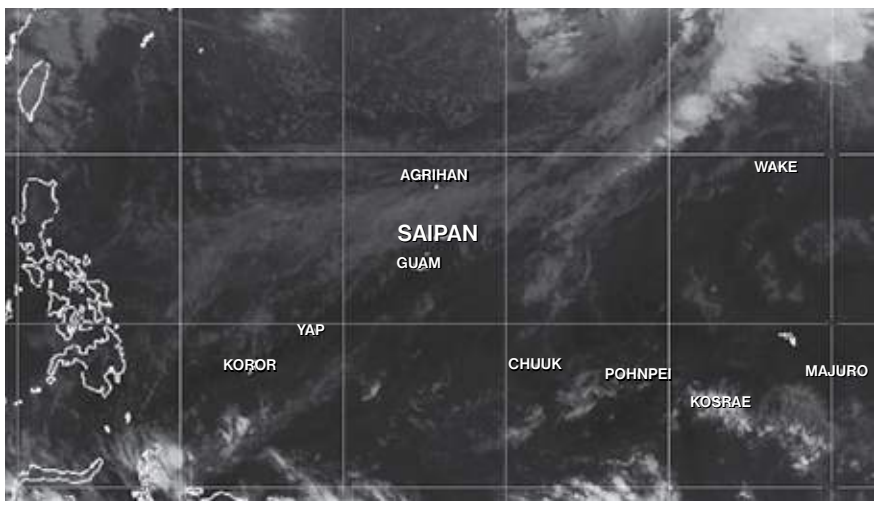
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼61
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲34	▼24
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲83	▼74
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼70
London	Rain	▲46	▼37
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲87	▼65
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼54
New York	Snow	▲36	▼29
Osaka	Rain	▲59	▼38
Paris	Rain	▲49	▼34
Pusan	Dreary	▲57	▼35
Rome	Showers	▲58	▼50
Salem	Rain	▲55	▼39
San Francisco	Rain	▲61	▼48
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼25
Tokyo	Rain	▲58	▼45
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲43	▼29

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends northeastward from 8N130E to 12N140E then continues as a cold front to just north of Saipan at 16N146E to a developing low pressure system centered near 25N155E. A warm front extends southeastward from the low to near Wake Island at 18N167E then finally continues east-northeastward as a stationary front to beyond 180 at 20N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are taking place along and up to 100 miles northwest of this boundary west of 140E between 140E and 168E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N east of 168E. Broken clouds and patchy rain are found over Wake Island along and up to 250 miles north of the stationary front. A trade-wind disturbance is centered southeast of Guam at 11N150E. Broken clouds and widely scattered showers are located north of Chuuk between 9N and 14N from 149E to 155E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E through a weak circulation centered near 3N148E to end southeast of Kosrae near 3N166E. Trade-wind convergence north of the trough is producing widely scattered showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 147E to 159E. Winds converging near the eastern end of the trough are generating scattered showers south of Kosrae and near Tarawa or between the equator and 4N from 164E to 175E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:53 PM	4:08 AM
Saturday	4:57 PM	5:00 AM
Sunday	5:59 PM	5:49 AM
Monday	6:59 PM	6:35 AM
Tuesday	7:58 PM	7:19 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 24, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:50am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:30pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL639	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:10am	2:50pm	Daily
DL287/639	5:50pm	1:30+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Spiders, bugs, and pearls

By DAVID KHORRAM
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram is a board-certified ophthalmologist and the Director of the Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care at Marianas Eye Institute. He is listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists."He is the editor of TheRetinaBlog.com, an online journal used by eye specialists around the world to stay current with the latest advances. He may be reached at 670-235-9090 or through www.MarianasEye.com.

"Doc, there is a spider in my eye." This was Mrs. Camacho's reason for seeing me when she walked into my office two months ago. "Well, there's not actually a spider in my eye. But when I look, I see a spider floating in my vision." I hear this commonly. My patients tell me about spiders, spider webs, flies, bugs, even strings with pearls, and other sorts of specks floating in their vision. What causes these? Well there are several reasons.

The inside of the eye is full of jelly called the vitreous. The vitreous is usually clear, and light passes through it to land on the thin layer of nerves and blood vessels that coats the inside of the eyeball. This thin layer of nerves and blood vessels is called the retina, and it's like the film inside the camera. If the vitreous has anything in it that is not clear, then a shadow will be cast onto the retina. The bugs and spiders and pearls and other specks that my patients described to me are shadows that they are seeing from these opacities in the vitreous.

The most common cause of these vitreous floaters is related to aging. As we get older, the clear vitreous gel, begins to liquefy, and eventually collapses on itself. This process can lead to clumping of the vitreous, and these clumps can cast shadows. These clumps can come in different shapes and sizes, which is why one person might see a fly and another person sees a pearl necklace. The first time you see a vitreous floater, it can be alarming. It is a good idea to see your eye specialist when a vitreous floater first appears. Although often times they are harmless, they can be a sign of more serious problems like retinal tears, which can lead to retinal detachments and blindness. I don't tell you this to scare you. I tell you so that you'll take the time to get it checked out so that if needed, we can treat the problem and prevent vision loss.

The spider floating in Mrs. Camacho's vision was not the result of these aging changes. She was seeing this floater because the shadow that was being cast on her retina was from blood. A blood vessel had leaked into the vitreous. These floaters can look exactly like the floaters from aging to you. But when we look inside your eye, we can clearly see that the floater is caused by blood, and not by simple clumping of the vitreous gel. Mrs. Camacho had bleeding into her vitreous because she had diabetes. Her diabetes had caused new blood vessels to grow inside her eye that were fragile. These fragile blood vessels broke and bled into the vitreous. This happens fairly commonly in my patients with diabetes, especially those whose blood sugar is too high. We called this bleeding, "vitreous hemorrhage." It is one of the serious signs of diabetic eye disease. Yet there are a range of treatments available to get rid of the bad blood vessels, and to get rid of the blood in the vitreous. If you are diabetic, and you see a spider or bug or necklace floating in your vision is especially important that you get your eyes checked right away.

Mrs. Camacho did well. I explained to her that the bleeding was from diabetes, and on that same day I put some medicine into her eye that helped close down the leaking blood vessels. Over the next month her body cleared away the blood in the vitreous. And then she received laser treatment to more permanently get rid of the bad blood vessels. She has also taken better control of her diabetes, and her blood sugar is in the low 100s now, which is excellent. She's careful with what she eats, and she exercises. She knows that as long as she has diabetes the spiders can come back, so she'll be seeing me regularly.

Letter to the Editor

Don't lose it to Guam

The CNMI may lose the Visitors Center for The Trench Marine National Monument and the economic boost it will provide to our growing tourism industry. Guam is lobbying heavily in Congress for the Center. Thousands of CNMI residents worked too hard to establish the monument and then not benefit. You can stop this travesty. Make your views known by contacting Chairwoman Bordallo (Guam) and Representative Kilili Sablan TODAY. Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife. FAX: 202-225-1542.

Nancy and Ron Kramis
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2X4X14 - $4.50	2X4X14 - $6.50
2X4X16 - $5.10	2X4X16 - $7.70
2X4X18 - $5.70	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X4X20 - $6.30	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X18 - $14.50
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X20 - $16.90
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5/8" FLYFORM:	$24.80/PC
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T07-02319	2007	YARIS 4DR SDN	AUTO	40454	WHITE	ACK-663	11,999	
T07-04043	2007	CAMRY XLE 4DR SDN	AUTO	30389	TURQUOISE	ADU-252	18,499	
R10-002F	2006	CAMRY 4DR SDN	AUTO	35306	BEIGE	ADN-161	14,699	
TOYOTA VAN								
U10-002L	2006	SIENNA CE	AUTO	127530	WHITE	ABZ-509	~~12,599~~	11,899
U10-003L	2006	SIENNA CE	AUTO	124063	WHITE	ABY-919	~~12,599~~	11,899
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999

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Commerce replacing umbrella permits

The CNMI Department of Commerce will be replacing all temporary umbrella permits that were issued to foreign investors and foreign students on or before Nov. 27, 2009.

The distribution of permits will take place at the Department of Labor, Afetna Building, San Antonio, beginning March 1, 2010. Permit holders are required to surrender their temporary or originally issued umbrella permits in exchange for the replacement permit.

Please note that permits (both Foreign National I.D. and formerly known as immigration entry permits and/or umbrella) will only be released to the actual permit holders as they will be required to acknowledge receipt of their permits.

Proof of identification will be required prior to the release of permits. Therefore, please be sure to bring your passports or proper photo identification cards with you. Proof of payment for the registration fee of $25 is also required prior to release of any permit.

Commerce permits will only be released from 1pm to 5pm in batches, based on last names, as per dates listed below.

Date	Last Name beginning with:
Monday, March 1, 2010	A, B, and C
Tuesday, March 2, 2010	D, E, F, G, H, and I
Wednesday, March 3, 2010	J and K
Thursday, March 4, 2010	L
Friday, March 5, 2010	M, N, O, P, Q and R
Monday, March 8, 2010	S, T, U, and V
Tuesday, March 9, 2010	W and X
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	Y and Z
Thursday, March 11, 2010	Make up day for those who missed their scheduled date
Friday, March 12, 2010	Make Up Day for those who missed their scheduled date

Live Fire Training at FDM this Saturday

The U.S. Military would be conducting Live Fire Training (393 COMBAT) and Laser OPSon the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on Feb. 27, 7:45a, to 11:15am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

NMC alumni mixer meeting on March 11

The Northern Marianas College Alumni Association will be hosting a mixer meeting at the Seaside Bar & Grill at the Pacific Islands Club on Thursday, March 11, from 5pm to 7pm.

All NMC alumni (those who have earned 24 or more credits) are encouraged to attend, as many topics will be discussed, such as the upcoming NMC Alumni Membership Card. The card program is expected to entail savings at various establishments in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

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$99 LG Rumor 1 CDMA
$75 Nokia 6205 CDMA
$75 LG vx5500 CDMA
$50 LG ax275 CDMA
$45 UTStarcom 7076 CDMA
$75 Motorola L7 GSM Quadband
Garapan Branch
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The New Nissan Altima
Acclaimed Quality. A Bold New Look.
UP TO 32 MPG**
"Highest Ranked Midsize Car in Initial Quality"
Fuel Efficient 4-Cylinder Engine with CVT Transmission. Advanced Features like Standard Push Button Ignition, Traction Control System and Vehicle Dynamic Control - All Standard Equipment.
The Nissan Rogue
A whole new crossover
UP TO 27 MPG**
New Nissan Rogue with available intuitive All-Wheel Drive, extra-smart storage and a street-savvy 27 miles per gallon. Driving is fun again.
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- Diamond G Rice $29.99 50 LBS. / $13.99 20 LBS.
- Lotus Rice $24.99 50 LBS.
- Brown Rice/ Sweet Rice $4.99 5 LBS
- Chicken Leg Quarter LIMIT 2 $20.99 33 LBS. / $15.99 22 LBS.
- Pork Spareribs LIMIT 2 $15.99 20 LBS.
- Baby Ribs LIMIT 2 $15.99 /CASE
- Young Whole Chicken LIMIT 2 $33.99 30 LBS.
- Philadelphia Cream Cheese $2.50
- U.S. Eggs Extra Large $2.19 /DOZ. LIMIT 4 DOZ.
- Hot Pockets/ Lean Pockets 2 for $6.00 1 12 OZ.
- Oscar Mayer Lunchables BUY 1 TAKE 1 $2.99
- Vega Shrimp $4.99 1 LB. LIMIT 6
- Green Mussels $3.99 2 LB. LIMIT 1
- Folgers Coffee $9.99 33.9 OZ.
- Excellent Flour/ Rice Stick 79¢
- Zesto Juice (All Flavor) $1.75 /BOX
- Wilkins $2.99 6000 ML.
- Butane Gas LIMIT 2 CASES $19.99 /CASE

FRESH MEATS • FROZEN FOODS • PRODUCE • GROCERY ITEMS

- Miller Sausage $14.99 5 LBS.
- Ground Beef $9.99 5 LBS. / $16.99 10 LBS.
- Beef Rib Finger $2.99 /LB
- Ground Pork $2.39 1 LB. / $16.99 10 LBS.
- Gusto's Chopped Ham $7.99 5 LBS. / $15.99 10 LBS.
- Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.09 /PKG LIMIT 2
- Bar S Bacon $2.49 /PKG.
- Hoffy Portugese Sausage $1.99 /PKG.
- Lamb Shoulder Roll $4.99 1 LB.
- Bar S Premium Deli Ham 50% OFF
- Pork Loin Boneless $2.99 1 LB.
- T-Bone Steak $3.99 /LB.
- Chicken Wings 5 LBS. $11.99
- Tillamook Swisscheese 1 LB. $4.50
- Shredd's Spread Country Crock 15 OZ. $3.29 12 OZ.
- Tyson Anytizer All Kinds $3.99
- Kashi Pizza 11.9 OZ. 2 FOR $10.00
- Totino's All Kinds $1.99 10.2 OZ.
- Totino's Pizza Rolls $8.99 44.5 OZ.
- Kraft Cool Whip Al Kinds 8 OZ. $1.99
- Happy Time Assorted Cookies $5.99 1.5 KG.
- Mackerel Pike $20.99 22 LBS.
- Tilapia 99¢ /LB / $37.99 /CASE
- Milkfish $1.49 /LB
- Broccoli $1.59
- Cabbage 79¢ /LB.
- Garlic (4 pcs.) 89¢ /LB.
- Potato (Jumbo) 79¢ /LB.
- Orange 89¢ /LB.
- Watermelon 49¢ /LB.

CANNED GOODS • BEVERAGES • SNACKS • GROCERY ITEMS

- Spam (All Flavors) $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Palm Corned Beef 11.5 OZ. $2.79
- Hormel Corned Beef Hash $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Hormel Corned Beef $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Black Label $1.39 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Hormel Chili No Beans $1.99
- Master A1 Tuna 99¢ LIMIT 6 CANS
- Ace Diamond Tuna $1.19 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Ligo Sardines 3 for $1.00
- Century Tuna (All Flavors) 79¢ EACH
- Pink Salmon 5 OZ. 79¢ EACH
- Dinty Moore Beef Stew 15 OZ. $1.69
- Maggi Magic Sarap Seasoning 12 Sachets/Pack $1.00
- Knorr Carb & Corn Soup 60 g. $1.25
- Chicken Noodle 99¢ /PACK
- Dashida Soup Stock $6.99 1 KG.
- Kikkoman $3.99 1.6 L LIMIT 6 BTL.
- Silver Swan Soy Sauce 1 GALLON $2.99
- Datu Puti Vinegar $2.99 1 GALLON
- UFC Catsup 1 GALLON $3.99
- Ventura Mayonaise $9.99 1 GALLON
- AVO Vegetable Oil $6.99 1 GALLON
- Canola Oil $8.99 1 GALLON
- Salad Oil $23.99 5 GALLON
- Real Fresh Milk 1 LITER $19.99 /CASE
- Foremost Reduced Fat 1 LITER $14.99 /CASE
- Promil Ages 1 to 3 $22.99 1.8 KG.
- Enfamil Milk LIQUID $16.99 12.5 OZ. / $29.99 23.4 OZ. / $39.99 CASE
- Maseca Flour $3.99 5 LBS.
- Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.
- Ichiban $8.99 /BOX
- Korean Bowl Noodle $7.99 /CASE
- Lucky Me Pancit Canton 4 for $1.00
- Tabasco 12 OZ. $6.99
- Vlassic Dill Pickles $5.99 WHOLE / $6.99 SLICE
- Kimchee Base $4.99 450G
- Lemon Powder $4.99 /CASE
- Chorizzos $26.99 LIMIT 1
- Golden Creme Ice Cream All Flavor 1.6 LR. $4.99
- Kraft Parmesan Cheese 16 OZ. $2.99
- Springfield String Cheese 16 OZ. $4.99 16 PCS.
- Coffee Mix $6.99 LIMIT 1 100 STICKS
- Seok Water $4.99 LIMIT 2 /CASE
- Sunkist Juice $5.99 /CASE LIMIT 1
- Coke (All Flavors) WARM ONLY $12.99 /CASE LIMIT 2
- Natural Ice Beer $17.99 /CASE / $5.00 6 PACK

NON-FOOD

- Tide Detergent $3.99 2.8 KG. / $6.99 5 KG.
- Gain Powder LIMIT 2 $11.99 80 LOADS
- Gain Liquid Detergent (All Kind) $4.99 50 OZ. LIMIT 2
- Joy Dishwashing $5.99 90 OZ.
- Dawn Diswashing $7.99 90 OZ.
- Luv's Big Box (All Sizes) $17.99 3, 4, 5, 6
- Huggies Mega $14.99 3, 4, 5, 6
- Sunsilk Shampoo & Conditioner 2 for $5.00
- Candle Jar $1.39 EACH / $12.99 CASE
- Clorox $3.29 3 QR.
- Bounty Paper Towel $18.99 15 ROLLS
- Diamond Foil 200 SQ.FT. $6.99
- Bounty Basic Paper Tower $8.99 8 ROLLS
- Toilet Tissue $2.99 10 ROLLS
- Charmin Regular $6.99 24 ROLLS
- Special Value Dog Food $25.99 40 LBS.
- Axxion Foam Plates 125 CT $6.99 LIMIT 1

FAMILY BAG

Pork Hocks	$8.99	Beef Backribs	$6.99
Pork Belly	$10.99	Beef Shortribs	$14.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99	Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Pork Spareribs	$5.99	Quarter Legs	$4.99
Pork Chops	$10.99	Beef Ribeye Steak	$15.99
Beef Stew	$13.99	Flank Steak	$17.99

More than 70 accountants took part in the tax seminar organized by the MIFICPA last Saturday morning at the Saipan Grand Hotel.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants president Melvin Malvar, right, presented a plaque of recognition to Deloitte Touch & Tohmatsu Tax Services manager Edgar T. Aguilar.

More than 70 accountants take part in tax seminar

Over 70 accountants attended the tax seminar organized by the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants last Saturday morning at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Resource speaker Edgar T. Aguilar treated attendees to a thorough and smart presentation of the seminar's topic, the "2009 Individual and Corporate tax returns preparation, tax updates and special fast track topics regarding sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation and LLC."

Aguilar is the manager of Tax Services at Deloitte Touch & Tohmatsu.

MIFICPA president Melvin Malvar presented a plaque of recognition to Aguilar, thanking him for serving as the seminar's resource persons.

"He dealt with almost everything under the sun as far as the topic was concerned. Everyone appreciated his effort in imparting his knowledge and the very effective way they delivered it. He was very knowledgeable on the subject matter and we're all impressed and thankful to have him for the second time in a row," said Malvar.

MIFICPA founder Ignacio Banadera served as the seminar's emcee, which began at 9am and finished at 12pm.

All participants received certificates of attendance after the tax seminar. ***(PR)***

THIS SATURDAY
SABALU FARMERS MARKET
(across MHS Susupe)
Fresh Local Produce &
Local Dishes
6:00am - 11:00am
Also visit Farmers Market on Tuesday!
from 3pm - 9pm (across Kristo Rai)

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Alana'ia Polynesian Music & Dance Productions
By: Ed and Melia Johnson

- **Keiki Hula class (ages 5-11)**
  Mondays and Thursdays 3:00pm-3:45pm
  $40.00 monthly
- **Kaikamahine Hula class (12 and up)**
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  $40.00 monthly
- **Basic Tahitian (12 and up)**
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To register please email alanaia.polynesian.ent@gmail.com, or call 285-6353 between the hours of 5pm and 8pm.

Alana'ia Polynesian Music & Dance Productions
Now hiring Musicians
Specializing in Ukulele and/or Percussion.
Must be able to sing.
Open auditions on 2/20/10 and 2/27/10
1:00pm, World Resort Sunset Stage

ENFORCE UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS

Do not provide alcohol to minors under 21!
Help keep our youth and community safe!

A message from the CNMI Youth Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Task Force.
Made possible by a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Sara Market II

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Beef Back Spare Ribs 20 LBS. $22.99

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Mackerel PACIFIC 22.4 LBS. $22.99 PIKE 22.07 LBS. $23.99

NORBEST YOUNG TURKEY $1.59 /POUND

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Chorizos 4 lbs. 64 oz. $24.99

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Jasmine Lotus Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) $25.99 $24.99 3 days only (02/26 - 02/28)

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Marukiyo Rice Cracker 100pcs. $89.99 CASE

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Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. $1.09

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Onion 79¢ /LB

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Spam 12 oz. LIMIT 6 ALL FLAVORS $2.29

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Libby's & Armour Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 69¢

Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. 89¢

Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. LIMIT 6 $2.29

Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. $1.99

Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. $1.79

DM Beef Stew 15 oz. $1.79

Master A1 Tuna 7 oz. Limit 6 99¢

3 Diamond Tuna $1.19

Sun Flower Mackarel 15 oz. $1.59

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 99¢

Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. $1.09

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn 89¢

Carnation Evaporated 12 oz. $1.19

Crisco All Vegetable Shortening 3 lbs. $4.99

Dragon Veg. Oil 1 Gal. $6.99

Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 $23.99 3 days only (02/26 - 02/28) $24.99

Garden Fresco Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. $7.99

Golden State White Vinegar 1 gallon $3.49

Crisco Pure Corn 64 oz. $7.99

Vlasic Dill Pickles (Wholes) 1 Gal. $6.99

Kikkoman 1.6 L. $3.99

Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. $4.99

Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. Limit 2 pcs. $2.99

Maseca 4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc. $4.99

Coco Mackerel 15 oz. $1.29

Sugar 2 kg. $1.89

Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 69¢

Nescafe Taster's Choice Decaf/Original 7oz. $7.99

Milo 600g. Buy 1 take 1 Free $4.39

Excellent Bihon 99¢ 3 days only (02/26 - 02/28)

Kraft Cool Whip 8 OZ. $1.99 16 OZ. $3.50

Philadelphia Original Creame Cheese $2.99

Mazwell House 34.5 oz. $9.99

Argo Corn Starch Limit 3 pcs. 99¢

Nissin Cup Noodles 27 oz./box all flavors $5.99

Korean Butane Gas LIMIT 1 Case 3 days only (02/26 - 02/28) $19.99 /CASE

Foam Cups 51 cnts. $1.99

Bounty Basic 15 ROLLS $15.99 8 ROLLS $8.99

Bounty 15 Rolls $19.99

Foam Plates 125 ct. $7.99

Drypers Mega ALL SIZE $14.99

Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts. $1.29

Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. 2 FOR $3.00

Bottled White Candle 12 pcs/case $13.99 /CASE

Drypers (All Size) Mega Pack $14.99

Luvs Big Pack (All Size) $19.99

Country Time Lemonade 2.33 Kg. $7.99

Tang 22 qts. $6.99

Lipton Ice Tea 4 oz. $6.99

Foremost Milk (Reduced) Limit 1 $15.99 /CASE

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only $5.99

Charmin Basis 24 big rolls = 48 regular rolls $14.99

Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. $7.99

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	$10.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	$7.95
FLANK STEAK	$16.95	BEEF OXTAIL	$16.95
PORK ADOBO	$10.95	BEEF STEW	$12.95
PORK CHOP	$11.95	RIBEYE STEAK	$17.95
PORK BELLY	$11.95	BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	$14.95
STEWING CHICKEN	$6.95	SMOKED HAM STEAK	$12.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	$4.99	PORK BUTT	$10.95
U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	$13.99		

NON-FOOD

SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS)	$4.99
CHARMIN (24 ROLLS)	$8.99
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	$19.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	$16.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	$6.99
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR $3.00
PLATINUM NAPKIN (360 CTS)	$3.99

Whole Chicken Can 50 oz. $5.99

Real Fresh Milk (Regular only) $20.99 /CASE 236 ml. $16.99

Enfamil LIPIL Lipil 25.7 oz. $29.99

Enfamil Lipil with Iron 8 oz by 16 cans $41.99 /CASE

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $12.99

Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only) $12.99

Pepsi 330ml Warm Only $13.99 /CASE All Flavors

Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only $26.99

Retiring Munson honored at luncheon

Retiring Chief Judge Alex R. Munson was honored last Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010, at a special luncheon hosted by CNMI justices and judges. It was to commemorate Judge Munson's 28 years of service in the legal community. Judge Munson retires from the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands on Feb. 28.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, on behalf of the CNMI Judiciary, opened with recognition and appreciation remarks. He spoke to the special nurturing of professional relations in the legal community Judge Munson had facilitated through his service. Moreover, Judge Wiseman remarked that Judge Munson "had dealt with federal litigation that presented unprecedented issues between the federal government and the CNMI, dealing with issues of first impression and doing so as would be expected of a judicial officer possessed with judicial principles of the highest order."

"Your judgments," Judge Wiseman continued in his praise, "revealed a high degree of competence in the law, untouched by partisan interests, public clamor or fear of criticism. The results of many of your decisions have provided a solid legal foundation for the CNMI to be guided by in its relations with the United States."

In conclusion, Judge Wiseman noted that Judge Munson will be leaving after almost three decades of judicial service to this community and to our Micronesian neighbors stressing that his "integrity, scholarship, courage and love for public life will be missed."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, left, of the CNMI Judiciary and Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, right, of the CNMI Superior Court present a special plaque to retiring Supreme Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson.

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan of the CNMI Judiciary presented a special plaque to Judge Munson, recognizing his dedication, commitment and service to the rule of laws and the administration of justice in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands as Chief Justice of the High Court of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Island from 1982 to 1988 and as Chief Judge of the United States District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands from 1988 to 2010. In his remarks, Chief Justice Demapan said, "his legacy and writing as a federal judge will be with us for many years to come. We thank Judge Munson and his wife Kathy for the service they gave to the Commonwealth.

In attendance for the occasion at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, in addition to the honoree, Alex R. Munson, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, was Miguel S. Demapan, Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court; Alexandro C. Castro, Associate Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court; Robert C. Naraja, Presiding Judge of the CNMI Superior Court and Designated Judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI; Ramona V. Manglona, Associate Judge of the CNMI Superior Court; Kenneth L. Govendo, Associate Judge of the CNMI Superior Court; Perry B. Inos, Associate Judge of the CNMI Superior Court; Jesus C. Borja, former Associate Justice and current Justice Pro Tem; Timothy H. Bellas, former Associate Judge and the Master of Ceremony; David A. Wiseman, Associate Judge of the CNMI Superior Court and Designated Judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI. ***(PR)***

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson, fifth left, poses with current and former CNMI justices and judges during a luncheon at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Tuesday.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Demapan to serve as SCU School of Law commencement speaker

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan of the CNMI Supreme Court has accepted an invitation to serve as Santa Clara University School of Law's commencement speaker on March 22.

The Chief Justice earned his Jurist Doctor from Santa Clara University in California in 1985.

During the law school's graduation ceremony an honorary Doctor in Law degree will be conferred on the Chief Justice, "a reflection," in the words of Dean Donald J. Polden "of the Justice's outstanding contribution to the legal profession and his constituencies."

Speaking to what the honor and opportunity means to him, the Chief Justice wrote in reply to the invitation, "On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, I humbly accept your invitation to be the commencement speaker for the graduating class of Santa Clara Law this May and will be particularly pleased to return to my alma mater and share the stage with the 2010 law graduates. I am happy to say that I have carried my experiences from Santa Clara with me throughout my professional career, including during my tenure as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. I have also been very pleased with the bright young attorneys from Santa Clara Law that have clerked for me, and it would be an honor to welcome the graduating class into the profession that has meant so much to my own life".

Chief Justice Demapan is the third chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which was established in 1988. He was born and raised on Saipan and began his academic distinction early as class valedictorian of Marianas High School in 1971.

The Chief Justice attended Seattle University in Washington under a Trust Territory Full Scholarship. He received his Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in chemistry in 1975. He then earned a Masters in Business Administration with honors from Golden Gate University in San Francisco in 1983. He finally settled on a law career, earning his Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University in California in 1985. In May of 2005, he received a Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Guam.

Demapan

The Chief Justice was sworn in as the Commonwealth's Supreme Court Chief Justice in July 1999, upon being nominated by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio.

Founded in 1851 Santa Clara University is the oldest operating institution of higher learning in California and the oldest Catholic university in the American West. Built around historic Mission Santa Clara, the present university is home to a population of nearly 5,000 undergraduates and 3,500 masters, J.D., and Ph.D. students.

Other notable graduates of Santa Clara university include: Leon Panetta, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Jerry Brown, California state Attorney General, former governor of California, Paul Laxalt, former governor and U.S. Senator, Nevada, Janet Napolitano, governor of Arizona, currently Secretary of Homeland Security, and Ken Sears, former New York Knicks and San Francisco Warriors player and the first basketball player to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated. ***(PR)***

Supreme Court affirms Lin's sentence

Last Feb. 23, the Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Commonwealth v. Jin Fu Lin*, affirming the defendant's sentence of four years imprisonment not subject to suspension, parole, or probation and a $2,000 fine.

The defendant pled guilty to Illegal Possession of a Controlled Substance in violation of 6 CMC § 2142(a). Pursuant to the sentencing guidelines for that offense, 6 CMC § 2142(b), he was sentenced to four years in jail without the possibility of suspension, parole, or probation, and was also ordered to pay a fine of $2,000.00. Lin appealed his sentence arguing that the sentencing guidelines are unconstitutionally vague, and that by misapplying the statute, the Superior Court violated his due process and equal protection rights under the Commonwealth Constitution.

The statute in question reads as follows: "Any person who violates subsection (a) of this section with respect to any controlled substance except marijuana shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than five years not subject to suspension, parole or probation, and a fine of $2,000.00."

Lin argued that the statute leaves open the possibility of suspension, parole, or probation when a sentence of imprisonment of less than five years is imposed.

The Supreme Court held that a plain reading of the statute supported the Superior Court's finding that any sentence imposed under subsection 2142(b) is not subject to suspension, parole or probation. Comparing subsection 2142(b) with other Commonwealth Criminal Code provisions, the Supreme Court also found that it did not offend equal protections principles or the due process clause of the Commonwealth Constitution.

The full opinion will be found at the CNMI Judiciary's web site under "News Archives" on the Home page. (http://www.justice.gov.mp/news_archive.aspx). ***(PR)***

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM ROTA TREASURE ISLAND CORPORATION

A $2,000.00 donation was distributed by Mr. Masahiro Watanabe, President of Rota Treasure Island Corporation. The Inetnon Man Amko' Luta Association and the Rota Little League Association were each given a check worth $1,000.00. Both of the recipients were deeply grateful for Mr. Watanabe's valuable contributions. On November 2010 the Office on Aging are planning to have an exchange program with Guam. With this said, Mr. Watanabe will continue assisting with contributions.

On February 22nd, 2010 the CNMI-DCCA Office on Aging of Sinapalo, Rota awarded the Rota Treasure Island Corporation with a Certificate of Appreciation for their valuable contribution towards the Inetnon Man Amko' Luta Association.

Upon receiving the Certificate from Mr. Juan M. Manglona, President of the Office on Aging, Sinapalo, Rota, Mr. Watanabe vowed that he will continue his contributions within his capacity to help with generous donations to various agencies.

ROTA TOURISM and TRAVEL AWARD

Rota Treasure island Corporation would like to introduce their **ROTA TOURISM and TRAVEL AWARD PROGRAM**. This particular award will recognize the **"SUPPORT & PARTICIPATIONS"** to the CNMI Tourism Activities and Annual Island Events on Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

Recipients of this award will be granted a Free Hotel accommodation for a ONE NIGHT stay at the Rota Hotel and Guided Tours on the Municipality on the island of Rota. Remittance of said "Award" shall be valid for ONE YEAR from date signed on the Certificate. This award will be said available beginning on March 2010.

Purchase of 5 Year Casino License denied by Rota Casino Gaming Commission

On February 22, 2010, I, Masahiro Watanabe, President of Rota Treasure Island Corporation (RTIC) was committed in making a payment of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars ($400,000.00) in cash to the Rota Casino Gaming Commission (RCGC) for fees pertaining to a Casino License that will be valid for 5 years.

However, the Commission decided not to accept my offer due to the fact that the processing and investigation requirements are still in progress by the Gaming Commission. According to the Commission, RCGC must complete said procedures in order to move forward. This basic requirement may take up to 90 days depending on the complexity of the RTIC's structure. RCGC insisted that they need to consult with their Legal Counsel and Financial Consultant to see whether such license may be issued for such purposes. For the meantime, Rota Treasure island Corporation has been given until March 11, 2010 to submit a company Financial Statement.

My fellow colleagues and I were very disappointed with the Gaming Commission's decision. RTIC had high hopes in having this issue completed so we can move on to other areas of improvement with our project. We are hoping that the Gaming Commission will see the positive outcome in what a casino industry will bring to the island of Rota and also to the rest of the CNMI in general.

NMC nursing faculty to help develop new teaching programs

New ways of teaching nursing students in clinical settings will be developed, thanks to the efforts of Partners Investing in Nursing's Future, a partnership of nursing faculty and local organizations.

The decision to develop what they will call "Innovative Clinical Teaching Models," was made by Pasquana H. Calvo of Northern Marianas College with nursing faculty from the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI) and their supporting partners, who met in December at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The partners agreed to collaborate in developing the Innovative Clinical Teaching Models for the nursing programs in the USAPI, in order to address the nursing shortage. The total nursing shortage results from a nursing faculty shortage in the USAPI.

Although the USAPI have in common a shortage of nursing faculty and a shortage of nurses, each jurisdiction has its own culture and institutions, which must be included in any solution. For that reason, the partners agreed that each nursing program will work with their local hospitals, public health centers and clinics to develop a teaching plan that fits their local situation. Cultural sensitivity will be the over-arching concept for their planning.

The other important concept is the need for sharing resources across the region. The University of Guam, for instance, has already developed a course to train experienced clinical nurses to teach nursing students, and they are willing to share this training with the other nursing programs.

Representatives of all seven government-supported nursing programs in the USAPI participated in the meeting: Northern Marianas College, University of Guam, Guam Community College, Palau Community College, College of the Marshall Islands, American Samoa Community College, and the newly-approved program at the College of Micronesia-FSM.

Supporting partners are very important to this work, and they participated fully. Supporting partners include: Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA); Jitdam Kapeel Area Health Education Center (AHEC); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Western Pacific Regional Office of WHO; and University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, who hosted the meeting. The Bank of Guam is also a major partner in the effort to improve health care in the USAPI by supporting the development of nursing faculty.

In communities around the world the nursing shortage has become so severe that it threatens patient care and safety, healthcare costs, and patient outcomes. The work of the USAPI nursing partners to alleviate the nursing shortage locally is funded by The Friends of the Marshall Islands Foundation Inc., with a grant called "Partners Investing in Nursing's Future" (PIN), a partnership of the Northwest Health Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Partners Investing In Nursing's Future is helping regional foundations develop local solutions.

The current PIN partners would like to encourage other community businesses and foundations to join them in developing strategies to establish a stable, adequate nursing workforce. Please contact Pasquana H. Calvo or John Cox at pasc@nmcnet.edu or johnc@nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

SATAKE VISITORS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College staff from the Office of Admissions and Records pose with students from Satake Senior High School Japan during their recent campus tour of the College on Feb. 24. There were a total of seven students and two instructors who traveled from Japan to participate in the tour facilitated by coordinators from Community Development Institute (CDI) at NMC. The program was a two-day event that included a short-term English course and social time with NMC students at the Student Center.

WIA prepares for '10 Summer Youth Employment Program

Every year, the Workforce Investment Agency provides employment and training opportunities to qualifying youth registrants under WIA's Youth funding program. Last year's program was larger than previous years due to the additional funding provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) inclusive of WIA's ordinary formula youth funds.

Last summer alone, WIA, through its training strategies, was able to subsidize more than 800 younger and older youths (up to age 24). However, this year's program will be limited to ages 14-21, the allowable age for the summer program under WIA's youth funding program. Funding limitation requires careful planning to allow more to participate. WIA anticipates funding a total of 680 qualified participants for all three islands allowing each participant to work for a total of three weeks only. Based on the most recent school closure and opening information, the summer work schedule is expected to be from July 5 to 23, 2010 and from July 26 to Aug. 13, 2010.

Letters encouraging partnership and participation will be sent out to WIA's business partners, both public and private sectors.

Summer workshops will be scheduled June 21-25, 2010 for Saipan, June 28, 2010 on Tinian, and June 29, 2010 for Rota. Summer qualifiers and workshop details for all three islands will be published the week of June 14, 2010.

In preparation and giving ample time (two months) for parents to prepare their children's WIA applications, WIA's SYETP application form can be downloaded at www.wia.gov.mp.

Applications are also available for pick up at WIA's Office on Capitol Hill, Hopwood and Cha Cha Jr. High School as well as Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School. Summer applications for Rota and Tinian will be made available at their respective Mayor's Office. WIA case managers are scheduled to be on Tinian on April 19-23, 2010, and Rota from April 26-30, 2010 to receive and validate summer applications.

WIA will begin accepting completed summer applications only with all the required documentations beginning March 1, 2010 to April 30, 2010. For more information about the summer program, you may contact WIA at 664-1705, 1707, 1708, 1757 or fax at 664-1710 or through the website. ***(PR)***

Student Support Services
Celebrates National TRIO Week

For more than 16 years, Student Support Services, a federally funded program under TRiO has been helping students further their educational goals. Student Support Services is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the Northern Marinas College.

The SSS Program serves 180 students per cohort year and provides intensive, individualized services that will assist each participant with graduation and to transfer to a four-year institution. To be eligible for the SSS Program, a student must be enrolled at NMC and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, or citizen of the Federal States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshalls, or Republic of Belau. In order to qualify for SSS, a student must meet at least one of the required criteria: being first-generation *(meaning neither parent nor guardian earned a Bachelors degree)*, qualifying as financially disadvantaged; or has a documented disability.

The SSS Program provides individual assessment and guidance with direct use of developmental resources, academic, personal and career counseling, assistance in applying for financial aid, and workshops on study skills.

Throughout the years, SSS has made an impact on its participants as they worked towards completing their Associates degree. Many participants have seek the SSS services such as the tutorial sessions, which helps benefit each participant as they struggle with their academic barriers. The SSS Program employs NMC students to become SSS tutors. The qualification to become a tutor includes maintaining a GPA of 3.2 or higher, and must have completed EN 101 and MA 132. This Spring 2010 semester, SSS has 5 tutors who provide academic assistance to ensure its participants understands and gains the knowledge of the subject being taught.

In celebration of National TRiO Week, the SSS Program hosted an Open House on Thursday, February 19, 2010 at NMC Bldg J from 8am-5pm. In addition, the SSS participants and tutors will volunteer as guest speakers to encourage the young generation of the importance of education; will be visiting patients, and will conduct a Read Aloud at certain schools.

TRiO Student Support Services is 100% federally funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

TRiO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
Contact Information:
NMC, Building J
Tel: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1275/7, 1282
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

"The Student Support Services has indeed helped me in various ways. I visit the SSS program at least twice a day and get tutorial for whatever subject I'm having difficulty in. The SSS tutors have made me better understand the Math formulas and has improved my progress in class. I am grateful for the tutorial and all the other services SSS provides to help its participants succeed."

Blaren Castro – Liberal Arts Major

"One of my most memorable experiences as an SSS member was participating in its Cultural Enrichment, which took place on Guam. We visited the University of Guam and Guam Community College to learn about what types of program they offered. This cultural enrichment allowed us to experience the diverse life on the island of Guam. I was culturally shocked because knowing that Guam is only a few miles from here, its fast-paced lifestyles and diversity was something I expected the states would be like; I expected Guam to be more similar to Saipan than it is to the US. This experience and other services made available by SSS have benefited me both academically and personally."

Nina Manglona – Education Major

Kilili invites students to enter Congressional Art Competition

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is inviting all Northern Mariana Islands high school students to enter this year's Congressional Arts Competition. The competition recognizes the outstanding artwork of one student from each of the nation's 441 congressional districts by displaying the work in the walkway that connects the Cannon House Office Building to the U.S. Capitol, where congressional members, staff, and visitors walk every day. Last year's winner was Rosanna L. Camacho.

Sablan said the theme for this year's contest is *Embracing Our Values and Our Future....Para I Tao'Tao Marianas*. "I am hoping that the artwork will express in some way the values and traditions that our elders pass on to future generations.

"We are looking for entries that reflect important lessons taught by the past and that demonstrate how we can incorporate those lessons into our lives for a brighter future for the NMI."

The Congressional Arts Competition is open to high school students grades 9 through 12. Participants may submit a painting using oil, acrylic or watercolor as their medium. Those opting for a drawing may use pastels, colored pencils, charcoal, ink, or markers. Collages, lithographs, silkscreens, block prints, photographs, and computer-generated artwork will also be accepted provided they are two-dimensional.

Begun in 1982, the competition aims to promote the artistic talent of students across America. Since then, more than 650,000 students have competed for the honor of having their work exhibited.

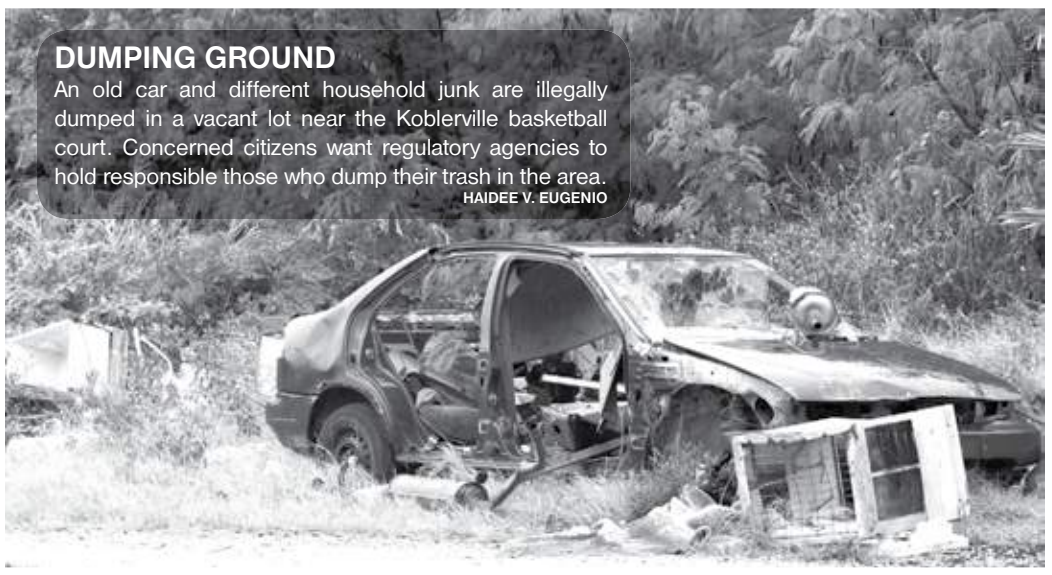
A panel of local Northern Marianas artists will judge the entries based on originality, creativity, visual impact, expression of idea or theme, and use of technique.

Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted. A typed copy of the student release form must be attached to the artwork to certify the originality of the piece.

Each piece can be no larger than 28 inches high, 28 inches wide and 4 inches deep. Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 lbs.

Entries should be delivered to one of the Congressional offices on Rota, Saipan, or Tinian no later than 5pm, April 23, 2010 (Chamorro Standard Time).

For further information contact Michelle Tenorio in Washington, DC at michelle.tenorio@mail.house.gov, phone: toll free (877)-466-3465. On Rota contact Harry Masga at rotadistrictoffice@gmail.com. phone: (670) 483-2644. On Saipan contact Jennifer Rosario on Saipan at jennifer.rosario@mail.house.gov, phone: (670)323-2647/8. On Tinian contact Matthew Masga at tiniandistrictoffice@gmail.com, phone: (670)483-2642. ***(PR)***



DUMPING GROUND
An old car and different household junk are illegally dumped in a vacant lot near the Koblerville basketball court. Concerned citizens want regulatory agencies to hold responsible those who dump their trash in the area.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Kilili introduces bill to study feasibility of Rota Natl Park

WASHINGTON, DC—Responding to interest from Rota, Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan today introduced a bill that would require the Interior Department to study the "suitability and feasibility" of establishing a unit of the National Park System on Rota. The study is required by law before any National Park can be designated.

"Rota has so many unique cultural and environmental attributes," said Sablan. "And constituents have asked me to look at ways these areas can be protected and can contribute to Rota's goal of being a world-class eco-tourism destination.

"Introducing this bill to authorize a study is the proper first step to fully analyze what people on Rota want and whether a National Park will help Rota develop."

The legislation lists the numerous features of Rota that make it a place that has the national significance required for a Park.

Of particular importance are what are described by archeologists as "the most numerous, most intact, and generally most unique prehistoric sites of any of the islands of the Mariana Archipelago." These include 4 sites already listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Monchon Latte Stone Village, Taga Latte Stone Quarry, Dugi Archeological Site, and the Chugai Pictograph Cave.

Vestiges of the Japanese era on Rota, such as the Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha Sugar Mill, are also already included on the National Register of Historic Places.

From a natural resources perspective it is the limestone forests of Rota and the rare plant and animal species there that distinguish the island.

Because Rota was spared much of the bombing and fighting of World War II the island environment remains much intact.

Once passed into law, Sablan's bill gives the Park Service 18 months to complete the suitability and feasibility study and report to Congress. The study would include public hearings and other opportunities for the people of Rota to consider whether they want a Park and what parts of the island should be included.

Following the report, it would still be up to Congress to pass a law creating a Rota National Park.

"There is still a lot to consider," said Sablan. "What are the benefits? Would a Park preserve areas for endangered species and free up other areas for development? What about questions of land ownership?

"I think the important thing is to give the people of Rota an opportunity to look at all sides of the idea over the next couple of years.

"After that, as their representative in Congress, it will be my responsibility to make sure that the people of Rota get what they decide is best for their island." ***(PR)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PRINIPONEN ATKILON TANU PUBLIKU

Segun i lai Publiku 15-2, Seksiona 106, i Depattamention Tanu Publiku ha notitisia todus ni intension para ma-atkilan tanu publiku gi Lower Base, Saipan. Libre i publiku muna` halom hafa hinassoña nu este na planu.

i. I tanu gaige gi Lot No. 038 E 02 ya i minedoñg 6,800 metru kuatdrau, poku mas o`menus. Guaha kopian este na lugat gi Depattamention Tanu para haye malagu umina.

ii. I para u fan atkila i Success International Corporation ni ineluluye as Señor Guo Jun Miao. Guiya lokue sekretariu yan treasurarion i kompania.

iii. I mapropopone na atkilon manegosiu as Señor Miao.

iv. I lugat para bisnis man-areglan kareta yan man-mueba tumobit 24 oras diariamente. I tetminon atkilon para 25 años na tiempu ya siña lokue ma-ekstende para otru 15 años. I tutat atkilon gaige gi pot sientu gi ma-katkula ni marehistra na kompanian man-ebaluan balin tanu.

v. I kopian kontratan atkilon gaige gi Depattamention Tanu gi Joeten Building, Dandan, Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luta; yan primet bibienda gi Kings Commercial Bldg. giya Tinian.

vi. I Depattamenton Tanu taya renisibiña kabales na propositu pot atkilon i lugat ni gaige guine na anunsiu.

vii. I Sekcretariun Depattamenton Tanu siña ha resibe nina halum publiku pot este priniponen atkilon, fabot `sino kinentra, antes `sino Måtso ida 8, 2010 gi katkuet offinan tanu giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONGOL REEL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól alléghúl toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Teel faluwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyegh, aweewe, reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toualp ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No 038 E 02, eyoor olangaras walabwughúw (6,800) square meters, elapeló ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuleey fischi.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Success International Corporation, CNMI Corporation. Samwoolul Corporation nge Guo Jun Miao.

Samwoolul Treasurer/Sekkeretoria nge Guo Jun Miao.

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Guo Jun Miao.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe ayoora me mwóghutáágheli fasilidóód fengál me leliyel ffééról ghareeta. 24-hours reel towing service shop, me akkááw angaangal.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge ebwe reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years) me emmwel ebwe sóbwusóbw ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 yrs)

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú llól bwuleey yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commerial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwo (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchuluyol.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng kkaal, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Mááilap 8, 2010 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 038 E 02, containing an area of approximately 6,800 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Success International Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Director of the Corporation is Guo Jun Miao.

The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is Guo Jun Miao.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Guo Jun Miao.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with a complete automobile repair shop, 24-hour towing service shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 8, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Business

Toyota chief blasted by lawmakers despite apology

WASHINGTON (AP)—Under blistering criticism, Toyota President Akio Toyoda personally and repeatedly apologized to Congress and millions of anxious American car-owners Wednesday for deadly defects in popular models produced by his Japanese company. But angry lawmakers forcefully declared it was hardly enough.

"Where is the remorse?" scolded Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio. And Republican John Mica of Florida held aloft what he called an "absolutely appalling" Toyota report bragging of defusing a safety investigation.

Of Toyoda's apology, Kaptur said, "I do not think it reflects significant remorse for those who have died." Federal safety officials have received reports linking 34 deaths in the United States to safety defects in Toyota cars and trucks over the past decade.

AP

Toyota President and Chief Executive Officer Akio Toyoda is sworn in on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010, prior to testifying before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on Toyota.

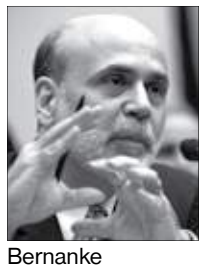
"I extend my sincerest condolences to them from the bottom of my heart," responded Toyoda, grandson of the founder of the world's largest auto company. "I'm deeply sorry for any accident that Toyota drivers have experienced."

But what's most important to American drivers—and what lawmakers pressed Toyoda and a top aide to provide—was a better explanation for slow actions to deal with the defects and believable assurances the problems that led to sudden unintended accelerations will be fixed. Toyoda said those changes are being made nearly around the clock, but he repeated the company's insistence that there is no link to the cars' electronic systems.

Bernanke sees low rates amid signs of weak rebound

WASHINGTON (AP)—New signs emerged Wednesday that the economic rebound is sputtering. Sales of new homes hit a record low last month. And mortgage giant Freddie Mac signaled it will need more federal aid—and might never repay it.

Against that backdrop, the government is trying to prop up the housing and job markets. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke reiterated the need to continue record-low interest rates for "an extended period." And the Senate passed a bill to give tax breaks to companies that hire the jobless.



Bernanke

Bernanke told Congress that low rates will help ensure that the recovery will last and help ease the sting of high unemployment. Asked what else Congress could do to stimulate job creation, he hesitated to say.

Hummer faces shutdown after Chinese sale collapses

NEW YORK (AP)—Hummer, the off-road vehicle that once symbolized America's love for hulking SUVs, faces a shutdown after its sale to a Chinese heavy equipment maker collapsed.

Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machines Co. said Wednesday it pulled out of the deal to buy the company from General Motors Co. Tengzhong failed to get clearance from Chinese regulators within the proposed timeframe for the sale, the Chinese manufacturer said.

GM said it will continue to honor existing Hummer warranties.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chrysler to fix crash sensors in 355,000 minivans

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Chrysler Group LLC on Wednesday asked the owners of more than 355,000 of its popular minivans to take them to dealers in a few months to replace crash sensors that help to control the air bags. The sensors can crack and fail in 2005 and 2006 Town & Country and Dodge Grand Caravan models, Chrysler said in a statement. It is asking owners to wait until June to contact dealers because it needs time to distribute repair parts. The automaker is calling the move a "safety improvement campaign" and says it is not a recall. But National Highway Traffic Safety Administration spokeswoman Oliva Alair says the agency considers it a recall and is monitoring repairs to make sure they are carried out.

Italy convicts 3 Google execs in abuse video case

MILAN (AP)—It seems that when it comes to letting the Web be the Web, it could be the United States against the world. An Italian judge on Wednesday held three Google executives criminally responsible for an online video of an autistic teenager being bullied - a verdict that raises concerns that the Internet giant, and others like it, may be forced to police their content in Italy, and even beyond. The reaction to the verdict in the United States was swift and nearly unanimous in its condemnation of a dangerous precedent experts said threatens the principle of a free and open Internet.

Limited Brands' 4Q profit rises on cost cutting

NEW YORK (AP)—Victoria's Secret parent Limited Brands Inc. reported a sharp rise in fourth-quarter profit, a result of cost-cutting and tight inventory controls. The profit, which topped expectations, combined with a brighter February sales outlook to send shares rising in after-hours trading. Limited, based in Columbus, Ohio, said Wednesday it earned $356.1 million, or $1.08 per share, for the quarter ended Jan. 30. That compares with $16.1 million, or 5 cents per share, in the year-ago period.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-TDEQ-057

OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY-TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FAX REQUEST TO (670) 664-1515.

THIS IS A FEDERALY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFRENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-RDEQ-060

OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY-ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FAX REQUEST TO (670) 664-1515.

THIS IS A FEDERALY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFRENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The staff of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will have a Wellness and Rehabilitation Day on Friday, February 26th, 2010 from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Services for this particular day will be temporarily halted until Monday March 1, 2010. For any urgencies please call 287-6538.

Thank you for your full support and understanding.

/s/ Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

This announcement is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (especially the Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on its listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies who wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts including three (3) reference letters from owners of the projects
9. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
10. The company's total years in the construction business
11. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY MARCH 08, 2010 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO

NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) is looking to hire individuals to fill the following full-time positions:

1. Administrator
2. Administrative Assistant
3. Records Assistant

Closing Date: March 26, 2010

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available at the MPLT Office located on the 1st Floor, Morgen Building in San Jose.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume and a cover letter to:
MPLT Trustees
Morgen Building, Suite #106
P.O. Box 501089
Saipan, MP 96950

Nation

Whale kills trainer as horrified spectators watch

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A SeaWorld killer whale snatched a trainer from a poolside platform Wednesday in its jaws and thrashed the woman around underwater, killing her in front of a horrified audience. It marked the third time the animal had been involved in a human death.

Distraught audience members were hustled out of the stadium immediately, and the park was closed.

Trainer Dawn Brancheau, 40, was one of the park's most experienced. Her sister said Brancheau wouldn't want anything done to the whale that killed her because she loved the animals like children.

Brancheau was rubbing Tilikum after a noontime show when the 12,000-pound whale grabbed her and pulled her in, said Chuck Tompkins, head of animal training at all SeaWorld parks. It was not clear if she drowned or died from the thrashing.

Because of his size and the previous deaths, trainers were not supposed to get into the water with Tilikum, and only about a dozen of the park's 29 trainers worked with him. Brancheau had more experience with the 30-year-old whale than most.

"We recognized he was different," Tompkins said. He said no decision has been made yet about what will happen to Tilikum, such as transfering him to another facility.

A retired couple from Michigan told The Associated Press that they were among some stragglers in the audience who had stayed to watch the animals and trainers.

AP

In this photo taken on Dec. 30, 2005, Dawn Brancheau, a whale trainer at SeaWorld Adventure Park, poses while performing. Brancheau was killed in an accident with a killer whale at the SeaWorld Shamu Stadium Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 24, 2010.

Snow storms blanket Northeast; 2nd storm on tap

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A powerful winter storm dumped a foot or more of snow in the Northeast on Wednesday, knocking out power to thousands and stalling air traffic from Boston to Philadelphia, all ahead of a second system packing strong winds that could blanket the area with another foot of snow.

The storm cut a swath from eastern Pennsylvania into northern New England, slamming typically snowy regions that had been spared the paralyzing storms that hit cities farther south earlier this winter. About 150,000 customers lost power Wednesday, hundreds of schools were closed and at least three traffic deaths were blamed on the storm.

An 89-year-old woman died in a crash in New York's Hudson Valley. In Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, a woman and a boy died when their vehicle slid off snow- and ice-covered Interstate 80; The man driving the car was not expected to survive.

The system was the first of a 1-2 winter punch. Another storm forecast to hit Thursday is expected to pack winds of up to 50 mph, which could cause more power outages, and dump a foot or more of snow on some areas by Friday. Meteorologists said some areas of New York's Adirondack and Catskill mountains and Vermont's Green Mountains could get as much as 2 feet by the weekend.

Obama, Dems look beyond health summit

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats, holding out little hope for Thursday's televised bipartisan summit on health care, are prepared to try for a far-reaching bill in the coming weeks without a single Republican vote.

Barring an unexpected two-party breakthrough at the summit, Democratic leaders feel they can't afford to fail, leaving them empty-handed on a huge priority in an already difficult election year. It's far from clear they can gather the votes, however, and it will take a major effort to unite fractious Democrats.

A bipartisan compromise seems highly unlikely, members of both parties said Wednesday. Popular insurance reform measures, which Republicans might support, require Democratic-backed measures the GOP staunchly opposes, such as government subsidies to enable millions of low-income Americans to buy health coverage.

ACROSS THE NATION

Colo. gunman had grown increasingly erratic

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)—The man accused of wounding two middle school students in a community still haunted by the Columbine massacre had become increasingly erratic in recent weeks, yelling at imaginary friends and complaining that eating macaroni and cheese made too much noise, his father said Wednesday. Investigators are looking into the bizarre behavior of 32-year-old Bruco Strong Eagle Eastwood as they try to figure out why the unemployed ranch hand allegedly showed up at his old school and started firing at students in the parking lot before being tackled by a math teacher. Eastwood's father described his son's recent strange behavior in an interview with The Associated Press at his ranch outside Denver.

Ex-officer pleads guilty in Katrina killing probe

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A former police lieutenant pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiring to obstruct justice after federal officials say he helped cover for officers who killed two people on a bridge in the chaos following Hurricane Katrina. Federal investigators say former Lt. Michael Lohman knew two people shot to death as they crossed the Danziger Bridge had no weapons, but he and others filed false reports to make the shootings seem justified. Four other people were wounded. Family members of the victims gathered at the downtown federal courthouse as Lohman arrived to enter his plea.

Lawyer: Jaycee Dugard kidnapper is mentally ill

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Northern California man charged with kidnapping and raping Jaycee Dugard has "a serious mental illness" and "may not be competent to be a defendant," his defense lawyer said in court papers filed Wednesday. Susan Gellman, a deputy public defender in El Dorado County, offered the blunt assessment of Phillip Garrido's fitness to stand trial while disputing assertions by prosecutors that she should be prohibited from trying to contact Dugard because Garrido is using her to manipulate Dugard from jail. "The district attorney is making the very same mistake that parole authorities made concerning Mr. Garrido for many years," Gellman wrote, arguing that Garrido's actions aren't evidence of manipulation. "He is ignoring the signs of serious mental illness. It appears that Phillip Garrido has been hearing voices of angels for years."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP: 2010-CDA-06-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Friday, March 19, 2010
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"APPRAISAL OF CDA'S PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DPL-061

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2010 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) HP DESIGN JET T1120 HD MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA
ACTING SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, #1242 Pohnpei Ct.
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670)664-4809 Fax No: (670)664-4814
Email: cnmihcplb@gmail.com

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 3pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at Conference Room #3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (1/27/10)
V. Chairperson's Report
VI. Director's Report
VII. Investigator's Report
VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
IX. Old Business:
A. Draft Regulations
X. New Business:
A. NPDB-HIPDB
XI. Applications for Board's Review
A. New/Renewal Applications
B. Pending Applications
XII. Miscellaneous Business:
XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
A. Dr. Ramsey
B. Dr. Macris
XIV. Announcements
XV. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Dr. Janet McCullough
Chairperson

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PERIMETER FENCE/ROADSIDE & DITCH GRASS CUTTING
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CPA-RFP-002-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for the cutting of grass inside and outside along the perimeter fence. The sealed cost proposals are due by 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 12, 2010 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Scope of work and the area sketch shall be available for pick up at the said office by Monday, February 22, 2010.

Please make arrangements with our Operations Supervisor at telephone number 483-6517 for a site visit to better understand the scope of work and to identify the areas depicted on the sketch.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on Friday, February 26, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the CPA Conference Room located on the 2nd floor of the departure terminal.

Along with your proposal, the submission of proof of insurance, company past performance and experience, and a list of equipment are required to completely determine the company's capability to perform the work. The successful proposer shall enter into an agreement with CPA for a two-year term which is renewable thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date for another year or as determined by CPA. The renewal of agreement shall be contingent upon CPA's satisfaction of the company's performance and the availability of funding.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its sole decision to do so, is in its best interest.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MOWING, TRIMMING AND CLEANING OF
PROPERTY GROUNDS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CPA-RFP-003-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for the mowing of grass, trimming of flowers and trees and cleaning of the airport grounds. The sealed cost proposals are due by 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 12, 2010 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Scope of work and area sketch shall be ready for pick up at the said office by Monday, February 22, 2010.

Please make arrangements with our Maintenance Department at telephone number 237-6532 for a site visit to better understand the scope of work and to identify the areas depicted on the sketch.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on Friday, February 26, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the CPA Conference Room located on the 2nd floor of the departure terminal.

Along with your proposal, the submission of proof of insurance, company past performance and experience, and a list of equipment are required to completely determine the company's capability to perform the work. The successful proposer shall enter into an agreement with CPA for a two-year term which is renewable thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date for another year or as determined by CPA. The renewal of agreement shall be contingent upon CPA's satisfaction of the company's performance and the availability of funding.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its sole decision to do so, is in its best interest.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Asia

Afghan wounded tell of more left behind in Marjah

LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan (AP)—Taxis turned into ambulances ferry wounded civilians out of the combat zone in southern Afghanistan, but one man's long trip to a hospital began with a two-hour wheelbarrow ride.

Mohammad's legs were peppered with shrapnel when a bomb exploded nearby. His brother found him unconscious and lifted him into the only thing he could find, pushing him in the wheelbarrow before he flagged a taxi.

Mohammad, who is from the Nad Ali district around Marjah, is one of 40 civilians treated at Emergency Hospital in Lashkar Gah since the Afghan-NATO offensive in Marjah began on Feb. 13. Both of his legs were in casts. Steel pins protruded from his right leg.

■■■

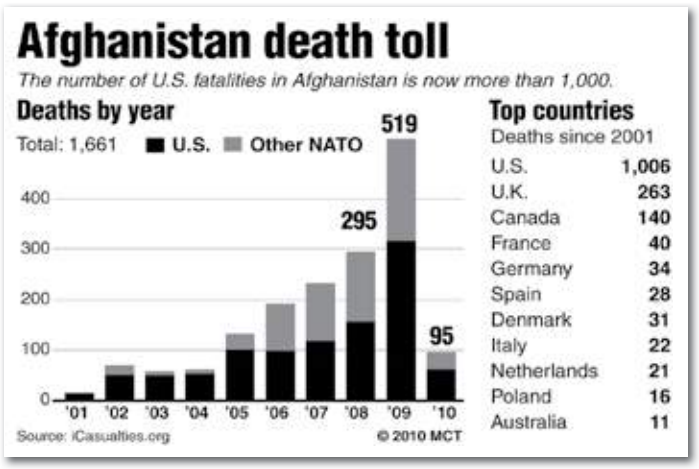
American troops knocked on the door, and before the Afghan family could find the key to let them in, the soldiers broke it down. There was no time to take women in the home to another place, said 77-year-old Mohammad Nabi. And that's what troubled the retired school teacher most about the intrusion in the southern town of Marjah.

"If they ask us to take our women and daughters in another place and then they do the search, we have no problems," Nabi told an Associated Press reporter. "We will cooperate with them. But they just enter the house and start searching and they don't care who is there."

A new directive, confirmed Wednesday by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, aims to limit such nighttime raids on civilians. It was prompted by a storm of complaints from Afghans who, like Nabi, who were enraged over foreign soldiers bursting into their homes.

AP

Abdul Hamid, 12, recuperates from his injuries at an Italian charitable hospital in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010.



■■■

Most of the wounded civilians recuperating at the whitewashed Italian-run hospital said their injuries were caused by "the foreign soldiers"—a claim that does not bode well for international and Afghan forces who are trying to get residents to renounce the Taliban and embrace the Afghan government.

Bernard Metraux, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Helmand province, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that as many as 40,000 people trapped by fighting in and around Marjah have little to no access to medical care.

The taxi-ambulance transport strategy took several rounds of painstaking negotiations with all sides in the conflict including Taliban fighters, who at times helped navigate the wounded through minefields to get them to medical care, he said. The taxis managed to transport about 30 wounded to Lashkar Gah, 20 miles (30 kilometers) northeast of Marjah.

ASIAN BRIEFS

46 likely dead in Indonesian landslide: official

CIWIDEY, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers used heavy digging equipment Wednesday to move tons of dislodged clay strewn with splintered remnants of upended houses after a mudslide on Indonesia's main island of Java buried dozens, leaving at least 46 dead or missing, officials said. Officials had earlier said 72 had probably died but later revised the figure down. At least 17 bodies have been pulled from the rubble, but many more are believed trapped. "It seems there is no possibility of anyone among those 46 surviving," said National Disaster Management Agency spokesman Priyadi Kardono. The true toll could be higher.

Communist rebels ambush Philippine troops, kill 4

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist rebels opened fire on two army vehicles in the remote southern Philippines, killing four troops, an official said Thursday. A civilian caught in the crossfire was among four wounded in the ambush Wednesday in Agusan del Sur province, where the rebel New People's Army has stepped up raids on police outposts and military convoys, said army spokesman Maj. Randolph Cabangbang. The rebels, believed to be numbering about 5,000 fighters, have waged a 41-year rural-based insurgency that has led to human rights abuses and has stunted economic development.

Report: Myanmar troops commit atrocities

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar troops have gang-raped, murdered and even crucified Karen women, or those in their charge, who took on the roles of village chiefs in hopes they would be less likely abused than traditional male leaders, a Karen group said Thursday. The atrocities, which also include beheadings, torture, forced prostitution and slave labor, are often committed as the troops attempt to root out a 60-year-old insurgency by guerrillas of the Karen ethnic minority, the Karen Women Organization said in a report. Although the United Nations and other organizations have documented similar atrocities against Myanmar's ethnic minorities, the government has consistently denied allegations of human rights abuses, saying its troops are only engaged in anti-terrorist operations.

World

Brazilian president says Castro seems recovered

HAVANA (AP)—Fidel Castro is "exceptionally well" and appears recovered from a health crisis that has kept him out of the public eye for more than 3 1/2 years, Brazil's president said Wednesday, according to reports by his country's news media.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva spent more than an hour discussing "various topics" with his longtime friend, the 83-year-old Castro, who ceded power to his younger brother Raul—first temporarily, then permanently—after undergoing emergency intestinal surgery in July 2006.

The meeting was closed to international news media based in Havana, but information about it was carried in Cuban state media and by Brazil's private Agencia Estado news agency.

Fidel Castro has not been seen in public since falling seriously ill, and his exact ailment has remained a state secret, though he has appeared healthier in photos released periodically by Cuba's government.

Photographs of Wednesday's meeting released by Brazil's presidency show a beaming Castro wearing blue-and-white exercise clothing, one of a series of tracksuits that have become his trademark uniform since he has been holed up in an undisclosed location.

The gray-bearded revolutionary was thought to be in far graver health—in fact, rumors of his imminent death were frequent—the last time Silva came to see him in January 2008.

This time, Silva felt Castro looked "much different" and improved, Agencia Estado said, citing unidentified presidential aides. Raul Castro and Franklin Martins, Silva's communications minister, participated in the meeting. The pictures released by Brazil also showed Silva using a photographer's camera to take a shot of Fidel Castro and Martins.

AP

In this photo released by Brazil's Presidency, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, right, smiles with former Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010.

Argentina presses for UN help in Falklands dispute

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina's foreign minister asked the head of the United Nations on Wednesday to help resolve a dispute with Britain over a vast swath of the southern Atlantic Ocean where Britain has begun drilling for oil.

Following a meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at U.N. headquarters, Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana told reporters Ban was not happy tensions have worsened because of Britain's decision to start drilling and was willing to continue his "good offices" mission.

A statement issued later by Ban's office said the secretary-general "took note of Argentina's concerns" in the meeting with Taiana.

"The secretary-general expressed satisfaction at Argentina's commitment to resolving its dispute with the United Kingdom over the islands in a peaceful manner," the statement added. "He reiterated that his good offices are available when requested by all parties in a dispute."

The U.N. General Assembly called for Argentina and Britain to negotiate sovereignty over the islands following a brief 1982 war for control, which Britain won.

Britain has ruled out any concessions involving the islands that its people have occupied since the early 1800s.

"As British ministers have made clear, the UK has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands," British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said in a statement.

"This position is underpinned by the principle of self-determination as set out in the U.N. Charter. We are also clear that the Falkland Islands government is entitled to develop a hydrocarbons industry within its waters, and we support this legitimate business in Falklands' territory."

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunmen kill 13 people in southern Mexican town

OAXACA, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen stormed a rural town in southern Mexico and killed 13 people, while the U.S. government warned Americans against traveling to cities in a northern border state where shootouts have left slain 19 people over three days. Hooded assailants in several cars killed nine police officers at a checkpoint in San Vicente Camalote, a town in southern Oaxaca state, state deputy attorney general Netolin Chavez said Wednesday. The gunmen then burst into the ranch of Alfonso Maciel, killing him and his three sons, one of whom was a minor, Chavez said. He said investigators believe the attack Tuesday night was related to drugs, but he had no other details.

Top-level informer affair embarrasses Hamas

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Claims by the son of a Hamas founder Wednesday that he was a long-term spy for Israel exposed a new side of the Islamic militant group's vulnerability and punched a hole in its meticulously groomed image of secrecy and discipline. The spy affair comes at a time when Hamas is still reeling from suspicions that Hamas informants helped Israel assassinate a top Hamas operative in a Dubai hotel. The back-to-back scandals were sure to leave Hamas leaders fearful of their own and ever more painfully aware of how capable Israel is of reaching the inner circles of their organization. At the center of the latest affair is 32-year-old Mosab Yousef, a son of Sheik Hassan Yousef, a Hamas founder serving a six-year term in an Israeli prison.

UK prime minister apologizes to child migrants

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown apologized Wednesday to the tens of thousands of poor British children shipped to former colonies such as Australia, where instead of a better life many were treated to harsh conditions, neglect and abuse. Brown said the country was sorry for the "shameful" and "misguided" child migrant program of the 1920 to 1960s, in which an estimated 150,000 British children were sent to distant colonies. The programs were intended to ease pressure on British social services, provide the children with a fresh start and supply the empire with a sturdy supply of white workers. But many children ended up in institutions where they were physically and sexually abused, or were sent to work as farm laborers.

Off The Wall

Woman says her love handles saved her life

In this photo taken Monday Feb. 22, 2010, Samantha Lynn Frazier, 35, of Florida, talks about a gunshot that hit her in the abdomen at the Egg Harbor Township, NJ, home where she is staying.

AP

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—A Florida woman said her love handles saved her life when she was shot entering an Atlantic City bar. Samantha Lynn Frazier said she heard two pops when she walked into Herman's Place early Saturday. The 35-year-old then felt pain and saw blood on her hand after she grabbed her left side. Atlantic City police said Frazier was an innocent bystander.

Detective Lt. Charles Love said the gunman was aiming for a man who escaped with a bullet hole in his down jacket.

The suspect remains at large.

Frazier told The Press of Atlantic City that 'I could have been dead. They said my love handles saved my life."

Frazier also told the newspaper that she had been "hollering" that she wanted to lose weight. She now said "I want to be as big as I can if it's going to stop a bullet."

Bikini barista charged with public exposure

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—Pierce County prosecutors filed a charge of unlawful public exposure against a 19-year-old barista accused of wearing only a thong bottom and X-shaped pasties on her nipples. Prosecutors filed the misdemeanor charge Tuesday against the woman who worked at the Bikini Bottoms espresso stand in Puyallup. A passer-by had complained last October about seeing the woman topless.

When a sheriff's deputy went to investigate the woman went to the back of the stand, took off the pasties and put on a bikini top.

The News Tribune of Tacoma reported the deputy confiscated the pasties as evidence.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman says Abercrombie fired her over headscarf

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A Muslim employee of Abercrombie & Fitch Co. alleges she was fired for not removing her headscarf. The Council on American-Islamic Relations said Wednesday it filed an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaint on behalf of Hani Khan. Khan had worked for the store's outlet in San Mateo, Calif. A call to the New Albany, Ohio-based company was not immediately returned. Khan says she was initially told she could wear a hijab, or headscarf, but a visiting district manager said scarves were not allowed during work hours. Khan said she was fired when she refused to take it off. A 2009 suit filed in Oklahoma against Abercombie alleged that a Tulsa store refused to hire a Muslim woman wearing a headscarf. That lawsuit is pending.

Man hit by train twice in 2 weeks in California

IRVINE, Calif. (AP)—A man who lost his hand after being dragged by a commuter train two weeks ago in Southern California has been hit by a train again. Police say the man claimed he fell from the platform onto the tracks at the Irvine station and was hit by a northbound train Tuesday morning. Sgt. Mike Meyers says the man gave the same explanation when he was hit by a Metrolink train at about the same time two weeks ago in Laguna Nigel and dragged 87 feet. His left hand was severed at the wrist. The sheriff's department investigated the first incident as an accident. Police say the man was taken to a hospital Tuesday with non-life-threatening injuries and will receive a mental health evaluation.

Cops: Fla. thieves overheard after misdialing 911

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Police say two Florida teenagers are facing charges after 911 dispatchers heard them talking about breaking into cars when one teen's cell phone accidentally called 911 during a heist. Daytona Beach police say 19-year-old Stefanie Vargas and a 13-year-old boy are charged with burglary to a conveyance. Police spokesman Jimmie Flynt says dispatchers listened as the pair discussed what was worth taking while rummaging though a vehicle parked near a Daytona Beach nightclub early Sunday. Officers went to the area and spotted the boy inside a vehicle. A police report says the pair tried to flee in a sport utility vehicle driven by Vargas. The report says both admitted to the robbery. It's unclear how the number got dialed.

Pa. county at odds with toilet-clogging inmates

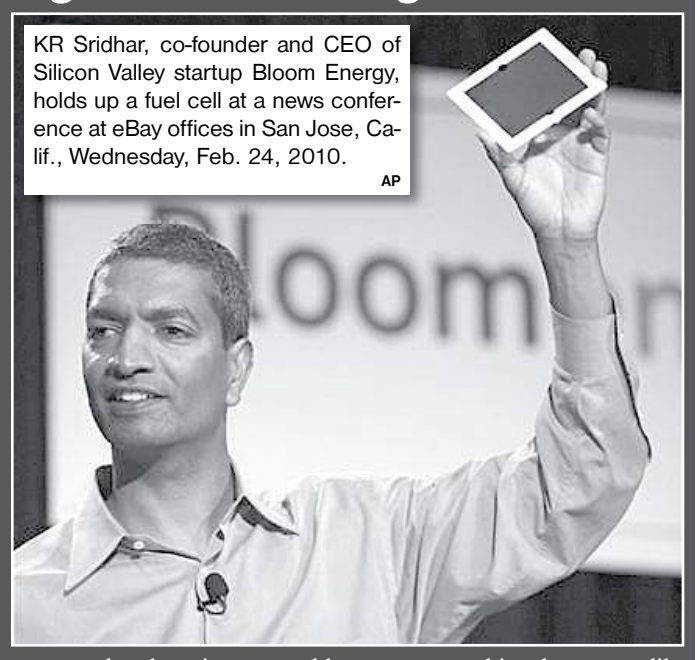
UNIONTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A southwestern county prison board says a permanent solution to toilet-clogging inmates at the county jail could cost up to $200,000. The Fayette County commissioners, who head the prison board, say inmates clog the county jail's outmoded sewer lines by flushing sheets, pants and other items—even light bulbs—down the toilets in their cells. A county engineer estimates it could cost $50,000 to $200,000 to install equipment that could grind up or screen out such obstructions. For now, such items must be removed by hand. That's complicated by the fact that the prison was built in 1886 and has outmoded four-inch sewer lines. The jail is expecting a $1,200 bill to fix clogs inmates caused by flushing debris on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Parking dispute prompts shootout with Pa. police

PITTSBURGH (AP)—An argument over a parking space prompted a shootout between a Pittsburgh man and police. Investigators said 61-year-old Errol Parker Sr. was in custody after firing shots at two officers responding to a 911 call in the city's Hill District on Tuesday night. No injuries were reported. Police said a man reported that Parker punched him and brandished a gun after being asked to move his car from a parking spot the man had shoveled out. Authorities said that Parker fired at police after they arrived and ordered him out of the house. Parker surrendered after exchanging shots with the officers. Parker was facing charges including attempted homicide and assault of a police officer.

Science & Technology

Debut of promising fuel-cell tech light on details



KR Sridhar, co-founder and CEO of Silicon Valley startup Bloom Energy, holds up a fuel cell at a news conference at eBay offices in San Jose, Calif., Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010.

AP

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A richly funded clean-energy startup is keeping critical parts of its business plan secret as it launches its first product amid fanfare.

The Silicon Valley company, Bloom Energy, didn't offer many new details Wednesday about how it plans to make its promising fuel-cell technology affordable enough for regular people to buy for their homes.

That's an important question because the company's product—a box of fuel cells that looks like a giant filing cabinet—currently costs $700,000. Corporations are the first customers, but Bloom Energy wants to cut the price to a few thousand dollars and put it in homes.

All CEO K.R. Sridhar would say was that the price cut could take a decade or more as the technology improves, much as computer chips have steadily gotten more powerful and cheaper over the decades.

EU weighs Google rivals' complaints

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Commission said it has asked Google Inc. to comment on allegations by rivals that it demotes their sites in its search rankings—but stressed it was not starting an antitrust case.

EU spokeswoman Amelia Torres said Wednesday that the EU antitrust office has received complaints from three Google rivals, but had not "opened a formal investigation, for the time being ... We are in a stage of looking at the allegations."

Google said it would provide "feedback and additional information on these complaints." It denied it was violating any EU antitrust rules.

EU law speaks of an antitrust violation if a company abuses a dominant market position. It provides for fines of up to 10 percent of a company's global turnover.

Google, based in Mountain View, California, sounded unconcerned.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-010

"SECURITY SERVICES FOR SAN VICENTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SVES)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **One (1) Year Campus Security Services for San Vicente Elementary School (SVES).**

The Scope of Work is available beginnning February 26, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Faxed request maybe sent to 664-3791. This is a re-announcement of IFB 10-002.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-010"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **March 11, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.,** at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: **robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp**

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FERNANDO BERNARD ANTONIO

was born to life on August 28, 1944
and was called to his eternal rest
on February 20, 2010

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his

Wife : Victoria Blau Antonio
Children : Imelda Antonio
Dewey Rengechel Antonio
Grandchildren : Adam A. Palacios
Brendon A. Villacrusis

He is additionally survived by his sister, brother & sister-in-law, aunts & uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00pm at San Antonio Church and followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm.

On Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to his residence.

Viewing and last respects will be at San Antonio Church beginning at 9:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Victoria Blau Antonio
Children & Family

Life & Style

Arson charge in famed Philly music company fire

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Police charged a man with arson Wednesday in a fire at the music company offices of a Grammy Award-winning songwriting team that produced dozens of best-selling records from R&B stars including Teddy Pendergrass, Patti LaBelle, Lou Rawls and the O'Jays.

Fire, smoke and water damage from last weekend's blaze ruined 40 percent of the memorabilia at Philadelphia International Records, though the recording studio was largely spared, label co-founder Kenneth Gamble said Wednesday.

"When I walked through it the other day, it was like an old friend had died," Gamble said. "I'm looking for the resurrection. Bottom line is we'll be back."

Christopher Cimini, 27, is charged with arson, risking or causing a catastrophe, burglary, criminal trespass and other crimes in the Sunday morning blaze on the top floor of a three-story brick building downtown. Cimini, who turned himself in accompanied by his attorney, remained in custody, and a listed telephone number for him could not be found Wednesday night.

Police spokesman Lt. Frank Vanore said Cimini "appeared to be extremely intoxicated or under the influence of something" on surveillance video. Vanore said Cimini apparently believed he was someplace else and was seen trying a set of keys before kicking in the building's door.

AP
Leon Huff inspects Philadelphia International Records in the aftermath of a fire, in Philadelphia, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010.

Cimini began walking through the building using a lighter to see and ended up in a closet storing memorabilia, where the lighter apparently touched off the blaze, Vanore said.

"He actually was calling for help out of there, and that's when they rescued him," he said.

The fire damaged gold and platinum records and the company's personal inventory of CDs by Michael Jackson and the Jacksons, Pendergrass, Rawls and LaBelle, Gamble said.

Gamble's partner, Leon Huff, said, "We'll bounce back. We wrote the song—'Only the Strong Survive.'"

Gamble, 66, Huff, 67, and fellow Philadelphia producer Thom Bell are credited with creating the lush acoustics of 1960s and '70s soul music that came to be known as the Sound of Philadelphia. Gamble and Huff's songs include the O'Jays' "Love Train," Billy Paul's "Me and Mrs. Jones" and McFadden & Whitehead's "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now."

Many of their biggest hits continue to resonate in popular culture through remakes and commercial licensing.

In Loving Memory

Tito Songao Hocog

JULY 5, 1920 - FEBRUARY 24, 2010

OF ROTA, PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY AT ROTA HEALTH CENTER SURROUNDED BY HIS FAMILY AT THE AGE OF 89.
HE IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS STEADFAST FAITH, LOVE OF FAMILY, AND HUMBLE PRESENCE.

AS WAS HIS CUSTOM TO BEGIN HIS DAY WITH PRAYER, HIS BODY WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE ROTA HEALTH CENTER MORGUE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 6 AT 5 A.M., TO ARRIVE AT SAN ISIDRO CHURCH, SINAPALO 1, ROTA FOR THE RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY AT 5:30 A.M., FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL. INTERMENT TO FOLLOW AT THE SAN JOSE CEMETERY, SONGSONG, ROTA.

AS HE RESTS, HE NOW JOINS HIS:

WIFE:	ROSARIO
CHILDREN:	JUANITA, CARLOS, DIMAS, LUCIA, LORENZO
SON-IN-LAW:	VICENTE S. ATALIG
GRANDCHILD:	EUSEBIO A. HOCOG JR.
PARENTS:	EUGENIO PANGELINAN & MARIA SONGAO HOCOG
PARENTS-IN-LAW:	ELIAS MASGA & ANA CASTRO ATALIG
SISTERS AND SPOUSE:	CONSOLACION & ROMANO MARATITA
	VICENTA & JOSE SAN NICOLAS
BROTHERS-/	VICENTE MANGLONA
SISTERS-IN-LAW & SPOUSE:	FRANCISCA A. & JOSE BORJA
	ISAIAS ATALIG
	FRUCTOSO & CARMEN ATALIG
	RAFAEL & MARIA ATALIG
	EMELIANA ATALIG
	CONSOLACION A. & BENIGNO SABLAN

HE WILL BE DEARLY MISSED & LOVINGLY REMEBERED BY HIS:

CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES:	SALOMAE H. AND VINCENT CALVO
	EUSEBIO "BILL" AND ROSITA HOCOG
	TITA HOCOG
	CARMEN H. ATALIG
	PIA HOCOG (WIDOW OF DIMAS)
	JOCELYN HOCOG (WIDOW OF LORENZO)
SIBLINGS & THEIR FAMILIES:	PRUDENCIO & ANA HOCOG
	FLORENCIA H. MANGLONA
SISTER-IN-LAW & FAMILY:	ROSA M. ATALIG

MASS IS OFFERED AT 7 P.M. ON MONDAY THRU SATURDAY AND 5 A.M. ON SUNDAY AT SAN ISIDRO CHURCH, SINAPALO 1, ROTA.

Clay Aiken takes NC stage for gay rights

AP

In this March 28, 2009 file photo, singer Clay Aiken attends the 20th Annual Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Media Awards in New York.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—More than a year after disclosing he is gay, Clay Aiken is speaking before a gay-rights event in his hometown.

Aiken will deliver a speech about gay rights this weekend at the Human Rights Campaign Carolinas gala in Raleigh, The News & Observer of Raleigh reported Wednesday. Actress Meredith Baxter, who recently said she is a lesbian, also will deliver a speech.

The 31-year-old Raleigh native, pop singer and 2003 "American Idol" runner-up said he wrote his own speech after remarks provided for him proved too political, including a slam aimed at former President George W. Bush.

"I don't feel like this is the place to be horribly politically charged and bash people and talk about the wrongs that have been done," he said. "My goal is to be hopeful, that it's time for everyone to have equal rights."

Aiken says his goal is to urge Americans to support equal rights for all. He says that means allowing homosexuals to marry and enjoy rights that heterosexual couples take for granted like inheritance and hospital visitation. Aiken said that goal may take decades.

"It's more important to me, as a parent, that my son have all the rights—if he's gay—than it is for me. I don't want to do anything today that's going to inhibit, or be a detriment to, his rights," he said.

Aiken's son, Parker, was conceived via in vitro fertilization and born in August 2008. Parker's mother is music producer Jaymes Foster. Foster, who lives in California and Aiken, who lives in the Raleigh area, share custody.

Aiken said he would probably attend Saturday's event with his bodyguard and without family members or friends. Some family members have handled news of Aiken's homosexuality better than others, he said.

'Octomom': Can't rule out another kid in future

AP

In this publicity image released by ABC, Octomom Nadya Suleman, right, listens to host Barbara Walters during an appearance on the daytime talk show, "The View," Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Octuplets mother Nadya Suleman says she doesn't plan on having more children unless she gets married someday "far" in the future. She says if that ever happens, she would only have one child.

Widely known as "Octomom," Suleman has six older children. She appeared Wednesday on ABC's daytime talk show "The View," where she has been a frequent topic of debate.

Suleman's octuplets celebrated their first birthday in January.

All of her children were conceived by in vitro fertilization, and she has been criticized for having a huge family as a single mother on public assistance.

She says her children are her priority and she is looking into various opportunities, including writing a book, to support them.

"If someday far, far, far, far in the future, when they're older, if I meet somebody. ... I'm not going to say 100 percent 'no,'" Suleman said when asked if she planned to have more children. "I'm not going to say someday far in the future (I will) get married and want a baby with that person."

Parents seek help to find actor missing in Canada

AP

Walter and Judy Koenig, parents of missing actor Andrew Koenig, talk at a news conference at the Vancouver Police Department in Vancouver, British Columbia, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—The parents of missing "Growing Pains" actor Andrew Koenig issued an emotional plea on Wednesday for their son to contact them.

Koenig, 41, was visiting friends in Vancouver when he went missing more than a week ago.

The Venice, Calif., native had a recurring role on the 1980s sitcom as Boner, a pal of star Kirk Cameron's character, Mike.

"We just want to know you're OK," a distraught Walter Koenig told a news conference, wife Judith at his side.

Walter Koenig, best known for playing Pavel Chekov on the original "Star Trek" television series, said Wednesday his son stopped taking antidepressant medication about a year ago.

"We think he's probably in a very depressed state," he said.

Vancouver police Constable Tim Fanning said there has been no activity on Koenig's cell phone or bank records since Feb. 16. Fanning said Vancouver's 1,000-acre (405-hectare), thickly forested Stanley Park, which Koenig loved, has been searched thoroughly.

"There is no evidence to lead us to believe Andrew was in the park in the last few days," Fanning said.

Fanning said the actor has no history of drinking or drug use, and everything points to him still being in Vancouver. But, he added, "there's no fresh place for us to search unless we get more information in."

Jay Leno adds Lambert, Harper to 'Tonight' return

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jay Leno is pumping more music into his "Tonight Show" return.

Leno is back as host of NBC's late-night show at 11:35 p.m. EST Monday, March 1. NBC said Wednesday he'll be joined the first two weeks by Adam Lambert, Robin Thicke, Ben Harper, Ryan Bingham and Lifehouse.

Leno's previously announced guests include Jamie Foxx, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and Olympic champions Lindsey Vonn, Shaun White and Apolo Anton Ohno. NBC says Brett Favre has been added as a guest for the March 4 show.

Leno is returning to "Tonight" after a short, unsuccessful stint as a prime-time host. He's reclaiming the show from Conan O'Brien, who left when NBC tried to move him to a midnight slot.

Conan's tweet: He's talking to the animals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Conan O'Brien is experiencing talk-show withdrawal pangs.

He tweeted Wednesday that he interviewed a squirrel in his backyard, then tried to go to a commercial.

In the bio section of the account that's verified by Twitter as accurate, O'Brien wrote: "I had a show. Then I had a different show. Now I have a Twitter account."

His January exit deal with NBC bars him from interviews or TV appearances for several months, so tweeting is another way O'Brien can communicate with fans.

He left "Tonight" after NBC tried to bump him to a midnight slot to move Jay Leno back to late-night. Leno will reclaim "Tonight" on Monday.

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NOW SHOWING

Cop Out

Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

Bruce Willis, Tracy Morgan
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan team up for the Warner Bros. police buddy movie Cop Out with this Kevin Smith-directed production. From a script by Robb and Mark Cullen, the picture focuses on a detective duo who investigate the disappearance of a baseball card.

Shutter Island

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

Mark Ruffalo and Leonardo DiCaprio team up as a pair of U.S. Marshals who travel to a secluded island off the coast of Massachusetts to search for an escaped mental patient, uncovering a web of deception along the way as they battle the forces of nature and a prison riot in this Martin Scorsese-helmed period picture. Laeta Kalogridis adapts Dennis Lehane's novel of the same name, with Paramount Pictures and Columbia Pictures splitting production and distribution duties.

The Lightning Thief

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Logan Lerman, Pierce Brosnan
Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Throuble-prone Percy Jackson is having problem in high school–but that's the least of his challenges. It's the 21st century, but the gods of Mount Olympus seem to have walked out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology texts and into his life. Percy has learned that his real father is Poseidon, god of the sea, which means Percy is a demigod–half human, half god. At the same time, Zeus, the king of all gods, has accused Percy of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt…the original weapon of mass destruction.

The Wolfman

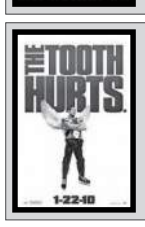
Friday		4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Benicio del Toro, Anthony Hopkins
Horror • Rated R

Valentine's Day

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway
Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Tooth Fairy

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Mon thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

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Baldwin warms up ahead of his Oscar co-hosting gig

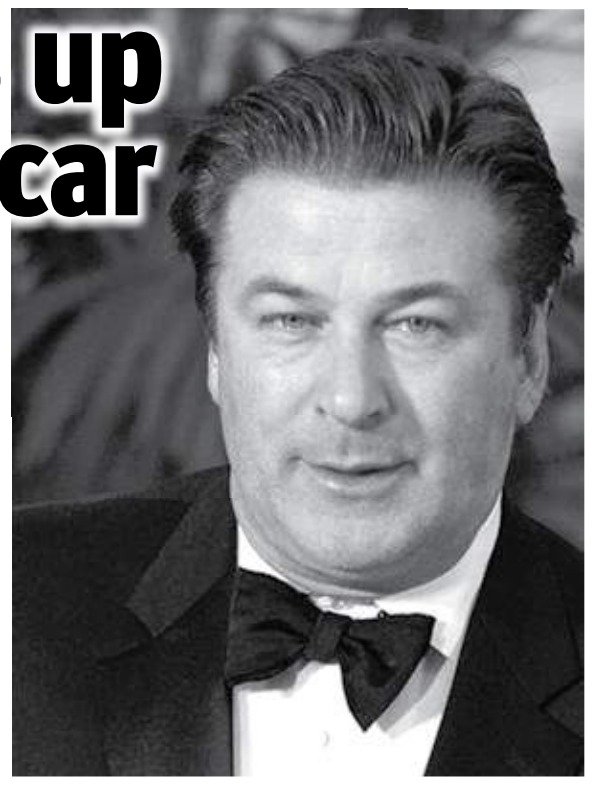
NEW YORK (AP)—As a kind of warm-up to his upcoming gig as Academy Awards co-host, Alec Baldwin appeared at the Time Warner Center for a personal and wide-ranging conversation.

But he did have one Oscar forecast: Expect wardrobe changes for himself and co-host Steve Martin.

The 51-year-old actor said, "It's a very metrosexualized kind of a show now."

In a Wednesday evening event presented by Fordham Law School, Baldwin spoke passionately and at length about issues he feels strongly about, including nuclear power and family law.

Before becoming an actor, Baldwin considered entering law school. When event moderator Thane Rosenbaum asked him if had he become a lawyer whether his brothers would have followed him into that profession, Baldwin joked: "God no. I would be representing them."



AP

In this Nov. 14, 2009 file photo, Alec Baldwin arrives at The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences 2009 Governors Awards, in Los Angeles.

Husband is dog-tired of being ignored by wife

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I love my wife very much. I like giving her back rubs, massaging her feet, cuddling and kissing her. In return she does the same—to her dog, "Barkley."

Barkley is the only one who benefits from her affections. The dog does nothing for me except allow me to pick up his droppings. What am I missing?

DOGGONE PUZZLED IN CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

DEAR DOGGONE PUZZLED: What you are missing is something called "reciprocation." And your wife is missing how resentful you are beginning to feel because of it. If you haven't already done so, "Speak!" to your wife about it and tell her you need some of those demonstrations of affection aimed in your direction—or someone's going to wind up in the doghouse, and it won't be Barkley.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Brian," has a terminal illness and only a few months more to live. We have been married four years. I fell out of love with him shortly after our wedding, and now he's sick. I'm his only caregiver.

Abby, sometimes I don't want to do it anymore. He has treated me badly and sometimes I hate him, but I want our 2-year-old daughter to know her father and have good memories. She can tell I'm not myself.

I know Brian has only a little time left, but I also know we would be happier and saner with him gone. I try to keep her away from him as much as I can because he goes off on her, too. I know my husband is angry because he's dying, but he has always been angry and had a bad temper. I try to be positive for our child, but it's difficult when you're being put down or ordered around all the time. What can I do? Just hang in there until it's over? I'm confused, lost, depressed, and I cry all the time. Please help.

WANTS OUT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR WANTS OUT: Please accept my sympathy. What you're experiencing is the most difficult of life's transitions—painful, exhausting, sometimes thankless. But for your sake, please don't give up now. Once this is over you will emerge stronger, more confident—and knowing you did your best and fulfilled your wedding vows to the very end.

Although you feel alone right now, you are experiencing what many other caregivers do when dealing with a loved one who is dying. Because you feel isolated, you might benefit from contacting the Family Caregiver Alliance. Its toll-free telephone number is 800-445-8106; the Web site is www.caregiver.org.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When I started dating this guy, "Mitch," everything was great. We were happy and made each other laugh. After three months, he left me a message saying he had to go out of state for work and would call when he got to where he was going. All I got was silence. Days turned into weeks and eventually into five months. Even though I loved Mitch and he had claimed he loved me, I started to accept that things were over between us.

Just as I was getting over him, he called. He told me he still loves me and is sorry he hurt me. Something does not add up. He doesn't have a cell phone, so there's no way to reach him. When I call him at the number he gave me, he's never there. I care for him, but something is not sitting well. What should I do?

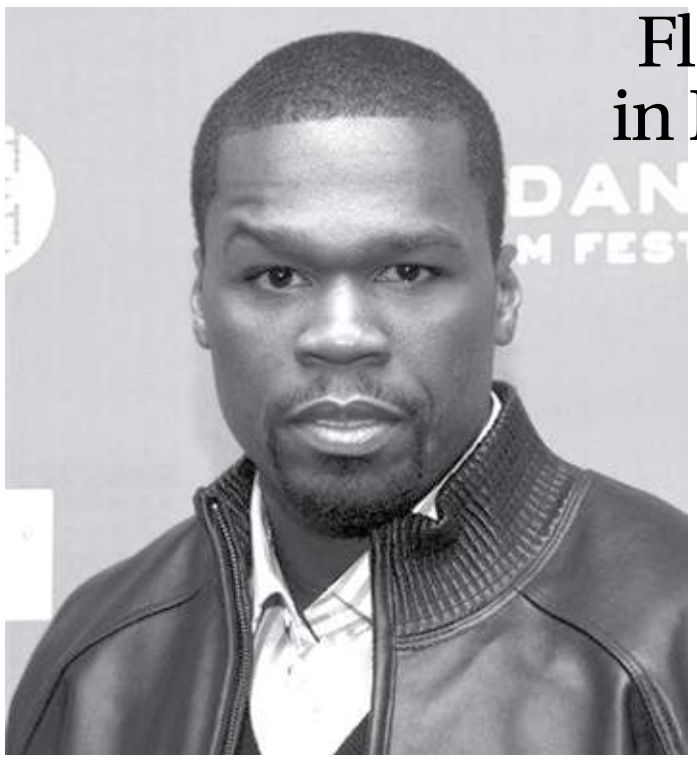
MYSTIFIED IN BATH, PENN.

DEAR MYSTIFIED: Pay attention to your intuition, which is trying to tell you that Mitch is a magician. Having pulled one disappearing act on you, he is likely to perform another. When a man isn't where he says he'll be, the odds are that he is either married or involved with someone else.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Fla. woman sues 50 Cent in NYC over her sex video



AP

This Friday, Jan. 29, 2010 picture shows Curtis Jackson, also known as 50 Cent, at the premiere of "Twelve" during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

NEW YORK (AP)—A Florida woman has sued rapper 50 Cent in New York City, claiming he unlawfully distributed her homemade sex video over the Internet after editing himself into it as a wig-wearing narrator.

Lastonia Leviston filed a lawsuit on Wednesday in Manhattan claiming unauthorized use of her name or image and emotional distress caused by the public release of a video she made with a lover in 2008.

The lawsuit claims 50 Cent posted the video on his Web site last year after blurring out the lover's face. It also claims the rapper appears in the video wearing a wig and robe and can be heard narrating throughout.

The rapper's real name is Curtis Jackson. His lawyer hasn't responded to a phone message seeking comment.

'Idol' judges jeer male semifinalists

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tim Urban tripped up during his second shot at "American Idol" fame.

The shaggy-haired 20-year-old singer was picked as a last-minute replacement for 25-year-old shoe salesman Chris Golightly in the top 24 semifinalists. On Wednesday's show, Urban was derided by the Fox singing contest's judges for his screechy rendition of OneRepublic's "Apologize."

Kara DioGuardi told the college student from Duncanville, Texas, the music "swallowed you up."

Other criticized crooners included 24-year-old actor Todrick Hall and 21-year-old college student John Park.

AP

In this publicity image released by Fox, the 12 male finalists for the ninth season of the reality singing competetion, "American Idol," front row from left, Andrew Garcia, John Park, Tyler Grady, Joe Munoz and Jermaine Sellers and, back row, from left, Lee Dewyze, Aaron Kelly, Tim Urban, Michael Lynche, Todrick Hall, Casey James and Alex Lambert, are shown.

Gary Busey's girlfriend gives birth to a boy

NEW YORK (AP)—Gary Busey's girlfriend, Steffanie Sampson, has given birth to a boy named Luke Sampson Busey.

Manager Scott Vandiver says the boy was born Tuesday and weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces.

The 65-year-old Busey has a son, actor Jake Busey, and a daughter, Alectra, from previous relationships.

Busey was nominated for an Oscar for his role in 1978's "The Buddy Holly Story."

AP

In this April 5, 2007 file photo, actor Gary Busey arrives at the premiere of the HBO Series " Entourage," in Los Angeles.

Beverly Hills disowns Miss California contestant

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The mayor of Beverly Hills is outraged over a Miss California USA contestant who spoke out against same-sex marriage and said she represented the city in the pageant.

In a statement Wednesday, Mayor Nancy Krasne said that 23-year-old Lauren Ashley lives in Pasadena and doesn't represent Beverly Hills in any capacity. She said she was shocked to see statements made by a beauty pageant contestant under the name of Beverly Hills, "which has a long history of tolerance and respect."

Ashley recently told Fox News and other media outlets that same-sex marriage goes against God and the Bible.

The pageant's executive director Keith Lewis says contestants choose the area they represent and Ashley chose to compete as "Miss Beverly Hills" in November.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DAD, IF YOU THREW A SNOWBALL AT SOMEONE, BUT DELIBERATELY MISSED, WOULD THAT BE "BAD"?
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD BE PROVOKING, SO YES, IT WOULD BE A LITTLE BAD.
AS BAD AS IF YOU'D HIT THE PERSON?
NO, NOT THAT BAD, BUT WORSE THAN IF YOU HADN'T THROWN IT AT ALL.
SUPPOSE YOU JUST GRAZED THE PERSON. HOW BAD WOULD THAT BE?
SAY MAYBE YOU KNOCKED OFF HIS HAT AND HIS GLASSES OR SOMETHING.
THAT WOULD MEAN INSTANT DEATH.
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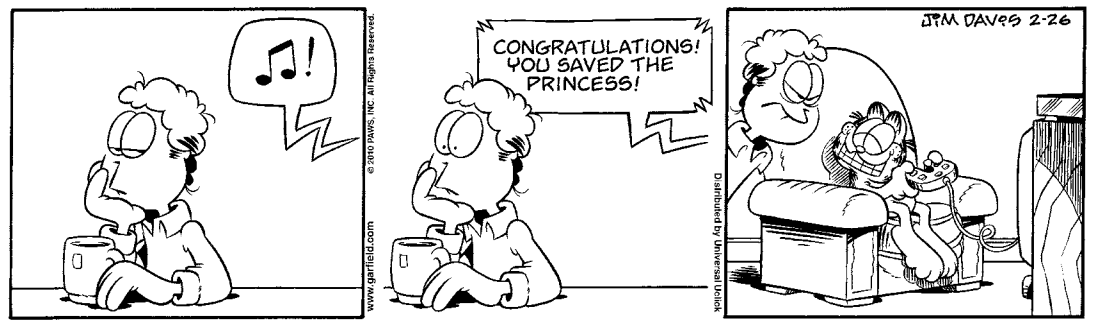
2-26

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


CONGRATULATIONS! YOU SAVED THE PRINCESS!
JIM DAVIS 2-26
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www.garfield.com
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW'S THE FACEBOOKING GOING, HONEY?
GREAT! REMEMBER BEN VETTER FROM HIGH SCHOOL? I FOUND HIM ON HERE!
TICKA TICKA
OH, HOW IS BEN?
WELL, SO-SO, I THINK. HE WENT SKIING THE OTHER DAY AND THE SNOW WASN'T THAT GREAT.
TICKA TYPE
THEN SOME GUY IN AN H2 CUT HIM OFF IN TRAFFIC.
HMM...
NOW HE'S DOING LAUNDRY. HE HATES IT, BUT I GAVE HIM A "LIKE THIS" FOR SUPPORT.
ADAM, LET'S TAKE A BREAK...
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www.gocomics.com
2-26

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

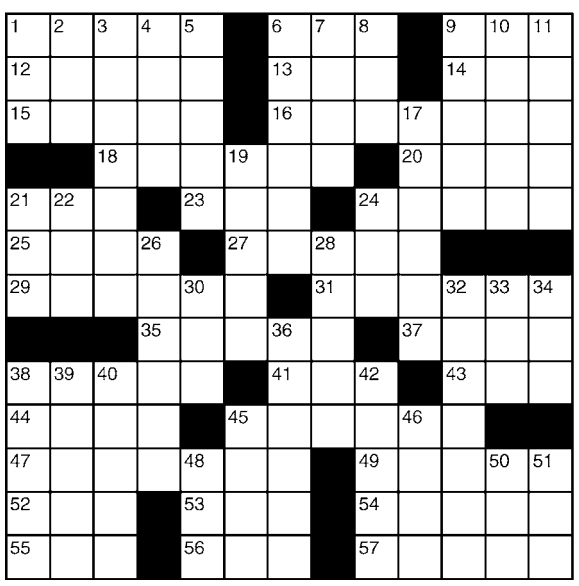
ACROSS
1 Expire
6 Homer's outcry
9 Ashen
12 Reef around a lagoon
13 Where, to Caesar
14 Rhyming tribute
15 Brit's service discharge
16 Cheerleader's pair
18 Celeb-laden magazine
20 Sun's output
21 Sticky stuff
23 Infinitesimal
24 Podiatry cases
25 Responsibility
27 Banished one
29 Wall hanging
31 Takes as one's own
35 Beginning
37 Drench
38 Some tides
41 Fun and games
43 Hosp. procedure
44 Beige
45 "Forget it!"
47 Victim of Vesuvius
49 Missouri River feeder
52 Brewery product
53 Regis and Kelly's airer
54 Discussion group
55 Cover
56 — Today
57 Dalmatian's pattern

DOWN
1 Young fellow
2 Consumed
3 Arrogant
4 Blackthorn fruit
5 Knee counterpart
6 Two-family house
7 Reed instrument
8 That guy
9 Suitor
10 Clio nominee, maybe
11 Fits inside snugly
17 Snapshots
19 Jurors, in theory
21 Red-staters' org.
22 Yoko of music
24 Scoundrel
26 Clog
28 Tops of heads
30 Em halves
32 — Beach, Fla.
33 Pitch
34 Tackle moguls
36 Beethoven's Third
38 Himalayan land
39 Meat contaminant
40 Ready for battle
42 Hens' pens
45 Penpoints
46 Now, on a memo
48 Water (Fr.)
50 Comprehend
51 Golfer Ernie

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	H	O	D	■	T	A	M	■	S	P	E	W
T	Y	P	O	■	A	N	A	■	E	U	R	O
I	D	E	M	■	K	I	N	■	E	S	S	E
R	E	C	I	P	E	■	N	O	S	H	E	S
■	■	■	N	I	P	■	E	T	C	■	■	■
L	E	G	O	■	A	P	P	R	O	A	C	H
O	R	E	■	■	R	O	I	■	■	R	O	E
P	A	T	E	N	T	E	E	■	S	T	O	W
■	■	S	L	Y	■	■	C	H	A	■	■	■
S	O	M	U	C	H	■	H	I	N	D	E	R
E	G	A	D	■	I	R	A	■	D	E	M	O
W	E	R	E	■	N	O	R	■	A	L	I	T
S	E	T	S	■	T	N	T	■	L	I	T	E

Yesterday's answer 2-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Corinne Bailey Rae, 31; Erykah Badu, 39; Mark Dacascos, 46; Michael Bolton, 56

Happy Birthday: You need to spend time relaxing and enjoying the people in your life. Your knowledge and experience will be valuable to others and must be shared if you want to be a participant and contributor this year. It's time to make amends with people you have walked away from. Don't limit what you can do because you are too proud to admit to your own mistakes and shortcomings. Your numbers are 5, 11, 14, 20, 31, 36, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Network and invest in yourself and your future. Accept any criticism good friends offer and hone your skills and presentation until they are picture perfect. Social activities will be excellent. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't be a follower. Use your better judgment and do what you feel is appropriate. Avoid any conflicts at home or work by staying on top of your duties and offering assistance wherever you can. Keep a relationship you have a secret for now. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let confusion stand in your way. Be straightforward with everyone. Let your intuition guide you, even if your heart and emotions are pulling you in the opposite direction. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do everything you can to advance. You will get the edge over anyone competing with you for the same position, contract or deal. An unusual partnership will form. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't get depressed about the things that haven't happened yet. Focus on the possibilities. Jump at the chance to make changes. Someone you are worried about will give you something that will help you move forward with your plans. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't shut down when you should be opening up. Say what's on your mind. Once you have aired your true assessment, you will get the help you require and a much better response than you are expecting. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take part in an event or activity you feel strongly about. You will make new friends who inspire you to continue with your personal and professional plans. Someone you are close to may not understand your reasoning. Don't let this person hold you back. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Oversee anything you ask someone else to do. Expect to be sabotaged by the person you expect to be in your corner. The people most interested in what you are doing may not be on your team. Change your living arrangements to make your space more conducive to productivity. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Money can be made and deals can be signed but have a plan in place so you don't overspend or overindulge. There is a lot to learn about the way you deal with others and with your money. Avoid gambling. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You need a break and now is as good a time as any to travel back to old familiar places. It will give you a chance to develop some of your more obscure ideas and plans for the future and the opportunity to hook up with old friends. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone may upset you if you don't compromise or do things according to plan. A serious commitment can be made but do so for the right reasons. Arguments will not solve the problems you face. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Mix business with pleasure—you will open up new avenues of communication and possibilities for forming alliances. Don't lend or borrow money and avoid a partnership with someone who wants a bigger slice of the pie. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, dramatic and sensitive to others. You are intuitive and adaptable. You are an opportunist, ready to take advantage of any possibility.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8		6			
	6						3	
		5	2		9	4		
6		1				9		5
8		3				7		2
		9	3		5	6		
	3						4	
			7		8			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	7	9	4	2	3	8	6	5
5	3	2	7	8	6	9	4	1
8	6	4	1	9	5	3	7	2
2	4	6	8	7	9	5	1	3
7	9	1	5	3	2	4	8	6
3	8	5	6	4	1	7	2	9
9	5	7	2	6	8	1	3	4
6	1	8	3	5	4	2	9	7
4	2	3	9	1	7	6	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DOVER, DELAWARE **Solution: 8 letters**

Y	H	C	E	T	Y	L	O	P	N	E	B	U	E	R
R	E	T	C	O	R	P	L	A	Y	T	E	X	O	K
O	R	N	S	E	I	L	L	A	R	Ⓐ	Ⓡ	Ⓣ	Ⓢ	L
B	I	E	D	R	O	L	O	P	R	A	I	O	Y	O
B	T	K	E	O	A	F	O	D	C	S	C	L	L	F
I	A	T	K	B	R	S	I	I	I	E	C	S	L	R
N	G	A	T	E	T	R	T	V	I	H	S	F	A	O
S	E	O	V	S	Q	Y	A	I	E	E	E	O	R	N
N	O	I	T	U	T	I	T	S	N	O	C	R	H	R
F	R	S	A	S	L	O	A	I	E	R	A	R	B	E
R	E	I	A	Y	R	P	P	O	A	A	R	E	A	H
W	L	P	A	O	E	I	E	N	R	A	C	S	S	T
E	L	B	M	A	G	M	F	N	S	T	A	T	E	U
L	O	C	K	E	R	M	A	N	N	E	E	R	G	O
S	R	E	T	L	A	S	D	S	E	N	O	J	T	S

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Arts, Base, Bay, Caesar Rodney, Chesapeake, City, Constitution, Division, First, Five, Football, Forrest, Gamble, Green, Heritage, Hose, Kent, Lockerman, Look, NASCAR, Near, Norfolk, Past, Penn, Pine, Playtex, Polo, Polytech, Post, Procter, Quail, Race, Rallies, Rally, Rare, Reuben, River, Robbins, Salters, Same, Slot, Southern, State, St. Jones, Stop, Teri, Visitor, West

Yesterday's Answer: Sunshine

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword. Universal Uclick. 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

T T
A H A
W W

u

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Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?
LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
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Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
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Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010
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FISG reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All vehicle are sold "AS IS" with no Warranties, Expressed or Implied.
Deadline for bidding is on Friday, February 26, 2010.
For more information, contact Diego Masga, Collection Department at 234-5706 or 234-8615

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$100 Security Deposit Required
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2010 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	Salary	Contract	Location
10-006	Dep. Dir. for Water Wastewater	One	Un-graded; Negotiable	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 **Closing Date:** March 4, 2010

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	Salary	Contract	Location
10-015	Technical Manager for Oil (TMO)	One	$79,616 - $88,462;	Two-year	Administration, Saipan

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.
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State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-007

"MULTI-PURPOSE STAGE FOR KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for the CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE STAGE FOR KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. The Scope of Work and plans are available starting February 12, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $44.00.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-Onsite Meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. at Kagman Elementary School. Bids submitted from bidders who did not attend this meeting will not be accepted.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Rommel S. Mostales, Acting CIP Coordinator, via fax # (670) 664-3715. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: mostales@pss.cnmi.mp.

Bids should be placed in sealed envelope marked "IFB 10-007" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than 9:00 A.M., March 10, 2010 at which time bids will be publicly opened. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-006

"INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS FOR SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS FOR SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL.**

The Scope of Work is available beginnning February 19, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Faxed request maybe sent to 664-3791.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-006"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **March 05, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.,** at which time, bids will be publictly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: **robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp**

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Division of Labor
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0907 or 0911 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0992

PUBLIC NOTICE of HEARING
Friday, February 26, 2010, First Notice
Friday, March 5, 2010, Second Notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio on the date and time listed. You must provide an interpreter if you need one. Failure to appear on the scheduled date may result in an Administrative Order being entered against you.

NAME	LIDS	DATE & TIME	NAME	LIDS	DATE & TIME
Adelan, Rosendo	151286	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Pineda, Mario	103433	03/23/2010 AT 1PM
Barroga, Teresita	163841	03/18/2010 AT 1PM	Pineda, Odilon	172708	03/23/2010 AT 1PM
Bhuiyan, MD Nozir Ahmed	133998	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Pitogo, Celso	297755	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Canlas, Celedonio	124549	03/23/2010 AT 1PM	Ragadi, Glory	110137	03/23/2010 AT 1PM
Cao, Ming Yan	122908	03/18/2010 AT 1PM	Ramiro, Mercedita	118223	03/23/2010 AT 1PM
Corpuz, Leonida	127821	03/23/2010 AT 1PM	Rao, Haili	142496	03/23/2010 AT 9AM
Deng, Lixia	132833	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Rao, Zhikun	201836	03/23/2010 AT 9AM
Dizon, Leticia	162262	03/18/2010 AT 1PM	Rasool, Amir	156370	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Ebdane, Rodolfo	108935	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Rejano, Ramon	111781	03/23/2010 AT 9AM
Eusebio, Jimmy	173309	03/23/2010 AT 1PM	Reonal, Julian	138015	03/23/2010 AT 1PM
Genez, Elizabeth	149993	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Rivera, Reggienald	158101	03/23/2010 AT 1PM
Gumabay, Antonio	149396	03/23/2010 AT 1PM	Robediso, Rosemarie	192578	03/23/2010 AT 1PM
Hernandez, Bonifacio	139951	03/18/2010 AT 1PM	Sanchez, Edna	133851	03/23/2010 AT 9AM
Iballar, Rodolfo	106151	03/18/2010 AT 1PM	Santiago, Jennifer	286433	03/23/2010 AT 9AM
Lagman, Eligio	146915	03/23/2010 AT 1PM	Shi, Lanxiang	197738	03/23/2010 AT 9AM
Lang, Xuefen	186234	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Sikder, Mohamad Badal	175067	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Lee, Dol Soo	144472	03/18/2010 AT 1PM	Tejada, Ligaya	105049	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Legaspi, Rowena	296998	03/23/2010 AT 1PM	Usudan, Sinawe	126300	03/23/2010 AT 1PM
Lopez, Cynthia	291003	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Wang, Xingjing	310364	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Lozada, Soligay	113745	03/23/2010 AT 1PM	Xiao, Yanbang	155050	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Maligsa, Tessie	144630	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Xu, Hong Mei	183674	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Mapalo, Valerie	151360	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Yang, Honghui	142496	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Matin, Abdul	142496	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Yu, Jianming	162898	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Merced, Rachael	158857	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Zhang, Lijun	100589	03/23/2010 AT 9AM
Mirasol, Joey	204523	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Zhao, Yang	287973	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Montes, Arthur	312442	03/18/2010 AT 1PM	Zheng, Jingwen	200980	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Nan, Changgen	286432	03/23/2010 AT 9AM	Zhou, Yaping	170988	03/23/2010 AT 1PM
Palacio, Nazareth	152566	03/18/2010 AT 1PM	Zhuang, Yiling	189163	03/18/2010 AT 1PM
Parial, Aurora	134658	03/18/2010 AT 1PM			

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Division of Labor
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Friday, February 26, 2010, First Notice
Friday, March 5, 2010, Second Notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to pick up a copy of their Administrative Order with regards to the revocation of their Umbrella Permit at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio. Deadline to pick up the Order is on March 22, 2010. Any person listed below who failed to pick up the Order is now as of the second date of this notice, served with the order.

NAME	LIDS	NAME	LIDS
Abella, Rodolfo	145111	Mahilum, Maricel	291948
Acquiatan, Cristina	115801	Marasigan, Luisito	284344
Arnaldo, Aurora	103934	Molina, Elizabeth	150376
Azurin, Kenneth	285892	Moreno, Marilyn	101317
Berganio, Elizabeth	160046	Nan, Haiyan	195425
Chavez, Rogelio	133483	Navales, Lito	175290
Cornejo, Nenita	125899	Piao, Shunji	173851
Cotin, Renato	107403	Romero, Rebecca	282525
Cui, Chunmei	195361	Sun, Guiying	153857
Cui, Shunyu	166256	Tong, Guo Zhong	295928
Dai, Lixiu	289302	Valdez, Garciana	172714
Ding, Fuli	296406	Velarde, Pedro	111514
Factor, Anthony DLC	118615	Wang, Yasu	190465
Fang, Weiguo	197051	Wu, Yanmei	121548
Flores, Eduardo	162472	Xia, Liying	166924
Gonzales, Erlinda	172850	Xiao, Rongjian	153407
Hu, Xiu Quan	147897	Xu, Zhiguang	200601
Huang, Qingai	185968	Xue, Xiuqing	120035
Laxamana, Nestor	117478	Yang, Zhicong	191464
Lee, Sang Hwa	303194	Yasona, Lucio	104669
Li, Xiang Hua	175926	Zhao, Chengbin	190947
Li, Zhiqui	137021	Zheng, Liwen	293607
Liang, Xiu Yuan	135156	Zhou, Xifen	188069
Liu, Meiying	297883	Zhuang, Honghong	300753

Weather problems return to Vancouver Olympics

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Canada's ice hockey team recovered its best form Wednesday, the same day that weather problems on the ski slopes returned to affect the Vancouver Olympics.

Dense fog on Whistler mountain forced the second run of the women's giant slalom to be postponed until Thursday, but the Canadian hockey team had no such problems with visibility, picking apart Russia's defense for a 7-3 win that put the hosts in the semifinals of the men's tournament.

Corey Perry scored two goals for Canada, which will next face Slovakia on Friday. The Slovaks beat defending Olympic champion Sweden 4-3.

"We did a great job, not only on Ovie (Alex Ovechkin) but against all their top guys," Canada goalie Roberto Luongo said. "We wanted to not give them much room to skate. We went one-on-one with them and were right on them."

The United States, which beat Canada 5-3 on Sunday to claim the top-seeded position in the playoff round, advanced to the semifinals by beating Switzerland 2-0. The Americans will face Finland in the next round.

Canada also won its seventh gold medal of the Vancouver Games when Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyse took first in the two-woman bobsled race. The country's seventh win brought it level with the United States and Germany for most golds.

Sweden won the men's cross-country skiing relay, with Marcus Hellner pulling away on the last leg for his second gold medal of the Olympics. Hellner was joined by Daniel Richardsson, Johan Olsson and Anders Soedergren. The Swedes won the 4x10-kilometer race in 1 hour, 45 minutes, 5.4 seconds.

"It was wonderful, getting to parade into the finish," Hellner said. "It's something we've all dreamed about doing. It's perfect. We couldn't ask for anything more."

Petter Northug used a furious final leg to secure silver for Norway. The Czech Republic took bronze.

Also, Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic earned her second gold of the Vancouver Games, winning the women's 5,000-meter speedskating race.

"I have two golds," Sablikova said. "The Olympic Games was wunderbar."

China won the women's 3,000-meter relay short track speedskating final after four-time defending champion South Korea was disqualified for clicking skates with China just after an exchange with five laps to go, and Lydia Lassila of Australia won the women's aerials title for her country's second gold of the Vancouver Games.

Sven Kramer, the Dutch speedskater who was disqualified from the 10,000 after skating in the wrong lane, said early Wednesday he will stick with coach Gerard Kemkers despite the coaching blunder that cost him the gold medal.

Kramer said Kemkers had been instrumental in leading him to the gold in the 5,000 and also has helped him win several European and world titles over the past five years.

AP

Canada's Brenden Morrow (10) reacts after scoring a goal in the first period of a men's quarterfinal round ice hockey game against Russia at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010.

"The past years were simply too good to drop someone just like that," Kramer said.

On Tuesday, Kemkers sent Kramer into the wrong lane about halfway through the race, a rare mistake that cost the Dutchman an almost certain gold.

The first run of the women's giant slalom, which was led by Elisabeth Goergl of Austria, was raced in fog and snow Wednesday morning. The second run never even started despite several delays, and organizers eventually called it off and rescheduled it for Thursday.

Goergl, the downhill bronze medalist, finished ahead of second-place Taina Barioz of France and third-place Kathrin Zettel of Austria.

Other contenders for gold included Eva-Maria Brem of Austria in fourth, Tina Maze of Slovenia in fifth and German standout Maria Riesch in seventh.

Defending champion Julia Mancuso finished 18th after having to re-start her run following the crash of American teammate Lindsey Vonn.

Vonn won gold in the downhill and bronze in the super-G, but she lost control in the giant slalom and crashed into the safety netting.

"The course is breaking up at the bottom," Vonn said, who broke the little finger on her right hand in the crash. "I got a little bit too inside and lost my outside ski. My knee came up and hit my chin."

Mancuso, who followed Vonn out of the starting house, had to stop midway through her run because Vonn was still on the side of the course being treated. The defending Olympic champion then had to make her way back up to the top of the course for a later start.

Jeter not interested in becoming a free agent

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Derek Jeter reiterated what every Yankees fan wanted to hear: He hopes to play in pinstripes forever. He just doesn't want to spend time talking about his future in New York.

"I've said from Day One, this is the only organization I've ever wanted to play for, and that's still true today," Jeter said Wednesday before the team's first full-squad gathering at George M. Steinbrenner Field.

"I was a Yankees fan growing up. This is where I want to be. I've never envisioned myself playing anywhere else, and hopefully I don't have to," he said.

The 35-year-old Jeter is entering the final season of a $189 million, 10-year deal. The All-Star shortstop said he doesn't have a set number of years in mind that he'd like to continue playing and steered around a question about whether he has a desire to be the Yankees' highest-paid player.

He said this will be the final time he speaks about his contract status.

Jeter hit .334 with 18 homers and 66 RBIs in 2009, leading New York to its first World Series championship in nine years. The Yankees have won five titles during his career.

"To be honest with you, I never put limitations on how long I can play. .... I want to play as long as I can, as long as I'm having fun, as long as I can be productive," Jeter said. "This organization prides itself on winning and putting a competitive team on the field. As long as I can help out, that's as long as I want to play."

Closer Mariano Rivera also is headed into the last season of his contract. The Yankees have a team policy of not negotiating new contracts until a player's previous deal expires, but it sounds as though the club wants to do everything it can to hang on to both players.

"Let's put it this way, I think from the fans' perspective they can count on those guys being here a lot longer than I'm going to be here. I think they're very secure," general manager Brian Cashman said.

"I don't think there's any sweat off any of these guys' backs. They've been Yankees for life, and that's what we intend to see happen. But again, you start those conversions at a different time and place that you feel is more appropriate."

That will be at the end of the season.

"That's just the practice we've had in place for some time now," Cashman added. "I think these guys are pretty secure in their abilities, their knowledge of how we feel about them, the place they want to be and that lines up for discussions for another day."

Jeter said he doesn't have a problem with the club's stance, adding his status won't become a distraction because he's not going to speak publicly on the matter again until after the season ends.

"I think it's unfair to be talking about myself when we're trying to win. That's the approach I've always had. That's not going to change," he said.

"I know it's maybe going to cause a lot of speculation. There may be a few stories out there, but it won't be a distraction because I won't be talking about it."

Team co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner said earlier this month that the club will address Jeter's contract "eventually," adding that the 10-time All-Star's "place in Yankee history is obvious, so I think you can pretty much assume from there."

Jeter, who has won three Gold Gloves and also has been a World Series and All-Star game MVP during his 14 seasons in New York, surpassed Lou Gehrig to become the Yankees' career hits leader in 2009.

For manager Joe Girardi, it's difficult to imagine Jeter or Rivera becoming free agents and winding up wearing another club's colors.

"It'd be different, that's for sure. I think when you think about guys like Mo, Jeet, you always think of them as Yankees," Girardi said. "There's certain guys, you expect to see them in one uniform."

Jeter didn't offer any indication of what he might be looking for in a new contract. He also said he's given no thought to how it might affect his legacy if he did not spend his entire career with the Yankees.

"I can't think about what's going to happen after this year. You don't think about what legacy you have when you're still playing. That's something you consider when your career is over," he said.

"My desire is to stay here. I haven't thought about ... how much money (I) want because we haven't sat down to negotiate anything. That hasn't crossed my mind. That's not what I play for. I play in order to try to help this team win. That's what I've always done. My feeling is everything else will take care of itself."

Mavericks too strong for Lakers

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks overcame the absence of Caron Butler to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 101-96 on Wednesday in a clash of NBA divisional leaders, extending their NBA winning run to five games.

Butler, a key part of a seven-player trade with Washington this month, missed the game because of a bad reaction to medication. Without Butler, Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Terry picked up the slack by scoring 22 of the Mavericks' final 23 points. Nowitzki finished with 31 and Terry with 30.

Los Angeles' Kobe Bryant scored 20 points and moved into 13th place on the career scoring list. Bryant, who passed Reggie Miller, has 25,298 points.

Bryant missed a 3-pointer that could have tied it with 25 seconds left.

Magic 110, Rockets 92

In Houston, Dwight Howard was 11 for 11 from the field and had 30 points and 16 rebounds to help Orlando beat Houston.

Howard scored all of his points in the last three quarters, as he sat out almost the entire first period after committing two quick fouls. He had his 19th straight double-double to break a tie with Shaquille O'Neal for the franchise record.

Spurs 95, Thunder 87

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 26 points and made a spectacular block on Kevin Durant's would-be dunk late in the fourth quarter, leading San Antonio over Oklahoma City.

Ginobili's crucial block in the final minutes helped stop Durant's streak of scoring 25 points or more at 29 games. Durant had 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 101, Raptors 87

In Toronto, Andre Miller had 18 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds to lead Portland over Toronto.

Brandon Roy added 20 points for the TrailBlazers.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 24 points for the Raptors who failed to top 100 points for the first time in 21 games — a streak that had extended back to Jan. 6.

Jazz 102, Bobcats 93

In Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer scored 20 of his 33 points in the second half to help Utah defeat Charlotte.

Deron Williams added 20 points and 12 assists for the Jazz, which has won 14 of its past 16 games to move within half a game of Northwest Division-leading Denver.

Bucks 115, Hornets 95

In Milwaukee, Andrew Bogut had 26 points and 13 rebounds to continue his string of dominant performances for Milwaukee, sinking New Orleans.

The Australian had his fourth straight double-double in Milwaukee's fourth straight win.

The Bucks are tied for seventh in the Eastern Conference and back at .500 for the first time since Dec. 12. It's the first time Milwaukee has been .500 or better after the All-Star break since 2005-06, when they last made the playoffs.

Suns 106, 76ers 95

In Phoenix, Steve Nash had 20 points and 13 assists in his return to Phoenix's lineup after missing a game to rest back and abdomen injuries, boosting the Suns to victory over Philadelphia.

Jason Richardson scored 24 points for the Suns, who have won four straight and moved 13 games over .500 for the first time since 2007-08.

Andre Iguodala led Philadelphia with 20 points.

Hawks 98, Timberwolves 92

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored a season-high 27 points as Atlanta overcame Minnesota.

Joe Johnson had 21 for the Hawks.

Kevin Love had 19 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota.

Bulls 120, Pacers 110

In Chicago, Luol Deng scored a season-high 31 points as Chicago beat Indiana after blowing an early 23-point lead.

Derrick Rose added 23 points, eight assists and nine rebounds for the Bulls.

Brandon Rush had 21 points for Indiana.

Grizzlies 99, Wizards 94

In Washington, Memphis extended its run of road wins to three by downing Washington.

Zach Randolph had 22 points, and Rudy Gay and Marc Gasol each added 20 for the Grizzlies. Gasol made his first 10 shots and finished 10 of 11 from the field.

Clippers 97, Pistons 91

In Los Angeles, Chris Kaman had 21 points and 15 rebounds to help lift Los Angeles over Detroit.

Drew Gooden added 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Clippers, who have won three straight following a six-game losing streak.

Rip Hamilton led Detroit with 21 points, but missed all three free throws after getting fouled on a 3-point attempt with 7.9 seconds left.

Kraft: Patriots will pay market price to win

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Robert Kraft insists the New England Patriots will pay whatever it takes to win.

And the team owner has the paycheck stubs to prove it—regardless of what Randy Moss says.

"Do you know how much he (Moss) has made over the last two years? Over $20 million, so I don't think we don't pay for quality and I think you can see that," Kraft told The Associated Press on Wednesday in Indianapolis, where he is attending the NFL's annual scouting combine.

Kraft's comments come just days after Moss told reporters at a charity softball event in Florida that he did not expect to return to the Patriots following the 2010 season because he would cost the team too much.

New England is trying to work out a long-term deal with defensive tackle Vince Wilfork, who was given the franchise tag earlier this week. The team also may try to extend quarterback Tom Brady's contract before it expires next season, something the rival Indianapolis Colts are trying to do with Peyton Manning at the same time.

Where does that leave Moss in the Patriots' pecking order?

Well, the receiver believes he'll be looking for a new job after next season when his contract expires.

"You know the Patriots don't really pay, so when I got my second contract from them that was a blessing in disguise," Moss told *The Boston Globe* during a charity softball event in Florida. "I understand the business. I don't think they're going to re-sign me back. I'm not mad. I'm not bitter. It's just the way things are in this NFL, so like I said after this year I'll be looking for a new team."

Moss insisted he's not upset, just being realistic.

At first, Kraft brushed off the comments.

"I think the comments were probably taken out of context," Kraft said before expanding his answer.

Moss has been a big part of New England's recent success.

He caught a league-record 23 TDs in his first season with New England, 2007, when the Patriots went 16-0, lost in the Super Bowl and Brady was the league MVP. Moss has topped 1,000 yards in 10 of his 12 NFL seasons, including all three in New England. And he has 926 receptions, 14,465 yards and 148 TD catches in his career.

But last season, Moss was sometimes criticized for not giving an all-out effort, a tag that has followed him since the early days of his career in Minnesota.

Kraft seemed about as unconcerned with the criticism as he did with trying to extend contracts Wednesday.

"Tom is under contract and is a New England Patriot, and Randy also is under contract and is a New England Patriot," Kraft said.

Canoe group to discuss Micro Games plan today

The Northern Mariana Islands Kanu Racing Association (NMIKRA) will be holding a meeting today to gauge the CNMI paddlers' interest in competing in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

The meeting is set for 5pm at the Kilili Beach across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Topics to be discussed include team organization, team selection (men's and women's), expected commitment, financial requirements, residency requirement, and fundraising.

The CNMI won two medals during the 2006 Micronesian Games held on Saipan. The CNMI paddlers collected a bronze medal both in the men's marathon and 1,500m races. Palau swept the men's and women's marathon, 500m, and 1,500m events.

For more information about today's meeting, contact Gil Birnbirch at gbirnbrich@gmail.com or Kaye Christian at 288-KAYE. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PROS

From Page 36

answer session with students of Marianas High School yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium, reiterating the importance of education. The group also went to Grace Christian Academy as part of their school tour.

"You don't get to play if you don't make the grade," Snyder said.

"Before we became beach volleyball professional players, we were students first," D'Amore added.

Snyder explained further that staying in school and making the grades while playing volleyball open more doors of opportunity for them. She said while in school, there are scouts looking for players and student-athletes get to go to various tournaments outside their school and get seen by coaches.

"After I graduated, I was able to play in a pro league in Switzerland and after a year joined the AVP Tour," Snyder said.

Her teammate for two years now, D'Amore, said there are schools offering scholarship for student-athletes, but still one must make the grade.

"You may be good in playing volleyball, but if you have failing grades, still you can't get a scholarship so grades are very important," D'Amore said.

Besides making the grades in school, the four pros also shared to MHS students the struggles they had been to or have been going through to make it to where they are now.

"Being in volleyball shape is one. You can't just be in shape, It should be in volleyball shape, meaning you have to be stronger and faster. You have to take care of yourself and have discipline," Snyder said.

Another one is finding sponsors, which according to Baxter is a big challenge. We get to travel a lot, therefore we need funds for airfare, accommodation, and other basic needs. "Having sponsors is crucial for survival in the Tour," Baxter said.

Nearly 200 MHS students attended the forum with the U.S. pros and majority of them vowed to watch the visitors played on the sandcourt of the Pacific Islands Club this weekend.

John Nekaifes, who will be graduating this year, said having pros giving them advice is a great help, especially for those hoping to earn scholarship in college.

MHS P.E. instructor Nick Gross said the pros will inspire students to set goals and to do whatever it takes to achieve them.

All-US pros exhibition games

With the absence of pros from Korea and Japan, Marianas Cup for the first time will feature an all-American pro exhibition match tonight.

Snyder and D'Amore will be playing against Baxter and Fuller and later they will switch partner for a second round of exhibition match. Warm-ups will start at 5:30pm, while game time is set for 6pm. Tomorrow and on Sunday, the pros will split up and join forces with amateur players to compete in the men's and women's doubles.

Fuller is excited to team up with a local player.

"I want to see their passion for the sport, how good they are, and how we will blend together," said Fuller, who will be the tallest competitor in the field at 6'10", an inch taller than Olympian and many-time Marianas Cup participant Phil Dalhausser.

With CNMI fans missing Dalhausser this year, Fuller vowed to provide the crowd with the same if not more intense action on the sand court.

"I am really excited to play here and see what other players have to offer," said Fuller, who holds Saipan dear to his heart although it will be his first time on the island.

"My family knew the island because my grandfather was here as part of the U.S. Marine Corps after World War II," Fuller said.

Andrew Fuller's grandfather was the late Lieutenant Colonel Regan Fuller, who was the executive officer of Marine Corps Test Unit 1. MCTU 1 was an experimental testing unit of the United States Marine Corps and was active from 1954 to 1957 with operations in Japan and other neighboring areas in the Pacific. It was created outside the Fleet Marine Force for the development of specialized tactics, techniques, and organizational concepts, and for evaluation of its tangible employment in the nuclear age.

"When I return to California, I will have a lot of stories to tell my grandmother. I will tell her how the island looks now," Fuller said.

MOBIL

From Page 36

Manolo Manalo's layup tied the match, 79-all, with less than a minute remaining on the match.

Bank of Guam then failed to put up a decent shot in its next possession with the 24-second shot clock almost running out. Mobil took the possession and had Estolas driving to the right baseline and drawing a foul from Jeff Quitugua with eight seconds left on the clock.

Estolas muffed both charities, but Mobil got the endgame breaks when Galzote was fouled in the rebound play.

In the first game, Pacific Islands Club secured its second win in as many games after crushing Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo, 114-83.

Ryan Sanciangco exploded for 35 points to keep PIC unbeaten and hand SGH/Docomo its second straight loss.

SGH/Docomo was off to a good start, leading at the end of the first quarter, 20-17. However, SGH/Docomo failed to neutralize Sanciangco in the next two quarters, allowing PIC to nail a blowout win. Sanciangco erupted for 19 points in the second canto to tie the game at the break, 49-all. He added nine more in the third, while James Abuy chipped in seven, as PIC started to pull away at the end of that period, 80-67.

Rex Yabut and A.J. Baculod picked up where Sanciangco and Abuy left off, scoring 11 markers apiece in the fourth quarter to help PIC cruise to an easy win.

First Game

PIC 114 – Sanciangco 35, Abuy 19, Yabut 15, Jung 14, Baculod 11, Baterina 6, Williams 5, Pepito 5, Dacanay 4.

SGH/Docomo 83 – Lee 22, Villacrusis 16, De Leon 16, Bustillo13, Maliwanag 9, Ureta 7.

Scoring by quarters: 17-20, 49-49, 80-67, 114-83.

Second Game

Mobil 80 – Ruluked 21, Manalo 21, Galzote 10, Jose 9, Ajoste 8, Estolas 8, Deocares 4.

Bank of Guam 79 –G. Palacios 22, Taisacan 15, Quitugua 13, D. Palacios 11, Coldeen 10, Pelisamen 4, Mendiola 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-21, 37-41, 60-62, 80-79.

STAAL

From Page 36

jing Olympic Games and Rome World Championships.

"When I think of myself, and my teammate Shin, attending the Japan Open, I feel raw energy and excitement. I cannot wait to jump into the pool and swim with some of the fastest athletes in the world," the 15-year-old Staal said.

Though it will be his first time to compete in the Japan Open, Staal is a bit at ease as he will be familiar with the venue of the weekend tournament.

"I don't feel extremely nervous because the event will take place in the same pool as the Tokyo Junior Sprint, which I attended last year, so it will be familiar to me. The difference is that this meet will be much more intense, with faster athletes and bigger crowds. This will be a fast competition, just like in the FINA World Champs in Rome last year," added Staal, who will be racing in the 50m and 100m freestyle events.

"My goal in the Japan Open is to race against my own personal best time and try to beat them," he added.

Staal holds both the CNMI National record and age group mark (boys' 15 to 16) in the 50m freestyle, timing in at 25.39 seconds during a meet in Guam last year and eclipsing Jonathan Sakovich's record of 25.68 seconds (May 10, 1987).

Last weekend, Staal swam in the Tsunami Saipan-SSC dual meet and submitted 25.63 seconds and 55.93 seconds in the 50m and 100m freestyle events, respectively.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, who will not be joining his two swimmers in Japan, is hoping Staal will break the 25-second barrier in the 50m freestyle and 55-second mark in the 100m freestyle.

For Shin, Hiro is urging his son to complete the 50m freestyle swim in less than 26 second and the 100m freestyle in less than a minute. The younger Kimura shared the same goal.

"I am so blessed that I was given another chance to participate in Japan Open. Japan Open is one of the top level competitions in Japan and I will do my best to get a good time," Shin said.

Joining Shin and Staal in Japan is Tsunami Saipan manager Yuko Kimura.

Besides host Japan and the CNMI, 24 other countries are participating in the annual event. They are Brunei, Canada, China, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Guam, Hong Kong, Korea, Lithuania, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, South Africa, Singapore, Serba, Sweden, Thailand, Turmekistan, Chinese-Taipei, U.S., Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

Cash prizes await the Top 3 finishers in each of the 17 events. First placer will receive JPY 100,000 (more than $1,000), JPY50,000 for second, and JPY30,000 for third. A whopping JPY1,000,000 (more than $11,000) each await most valuable players in the men's and women's divisions, while a world record is worth more at JPY2,000,000 (more than $22,000).

QUOTES

From Page 36

cer. He decided to stick with his team because that is who he is, what he's all about.

"I need everybody. I also need the gym. I need the juice from being happy about kicking someone's butt. I felt very early it made no sense for me to separate from the team. I'm using them. I need them. Hopefully, they don't mind it," he said.

Coach Karl added, "There was a discussion to maybe go to another city or to the elite hospitals of the world. Maybe spend two months in Seattle and get the top treatment and be bored and depressed and stiff and anxious."

Dwayne Shintzius has leukemia. Reading those words last week sent a shock wave down my spine. He's 41. The Florida boy parlayed and prolonged his potential somehow into a lucrative NBA career despite never averaging more than four points a game in any of his eight seasons. His blonde mullet hairstyle aka "The Lobster" got more attention than his play.

The 7'1" center had a distinguished career at Florida, even if he didn't quite fulfill the huge expectations that Gator Nation heaped upon him.

Maybe one reason he wasn't beloved as much as he could have been is because of a story I heard. A guy came up to him on campus and asked, "How's the weather up there?" Shintzius said, "It's raining." Then he spit on him.

I don't know it that's true, just that I remember hearing it.

He doesn't really care. Now he faces a deadly foe but with an upbeat attitude, "I do love life. You're going to have people who like you and people who don't. I've come to grips with that. I am who I am. I'm looking forward to what's ahead for me."

Words of wisdom don't have to come from the old or sick.

Jessica Watson is a 16-year-old Australian who is sailing around the world solo. After four months alone on open ocean, she blogs a wining philosophy.

"When I first dreamt of sailing around the world, the first thing that caught my attention, was curiosity about whether or not it was even something that was achievable. It wasn't so much the action and adrenaline parts that appealed to me, but thinking about all the details and finding ways to minimize the risks. I wanted to challenge myself and achieve something to be proud of. And yes, I wanted to inspire people. I hate that so many dreams never actually become anything more than that, a dream. I'm not saying that everyone should buy a boat and take off around the world, but I hope that by achieving my own dream, I'm showing people that it is possible to reach their own goals, whatever they might be and however big or small. Now that I'm out here, I'm also finding that a big part of it is just about having fun and making the most of every day."

All notable and quotable.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDING

EASTERN CONFERENCE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	19	.655	–
Toronto	31	25	.554	5 1/2
Philadelphia	22	35	.386	15
New York	19	37	.339	17 1/2
New Jersey	5	52	.088	32

Southeast Division

Orlando	39	19	.672	–
Atlanta	36	20	.643	2
Miami	29	29	.500	10
Charlotte	27	29	.482	11
Washington	20	35	.364	17 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	44	14	.759	–
Chicago	30	27	.526	13 1/2
Milwaukee	28	28	.500	15
Detroit	21	36	.368	22 1/2
Indiana	19	38	.333	24 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	37	21	.638	–
San Antonio	32	23	.582	3 1/2
New Orleans	30	28	.517	7
Memphis	29	28	.509	7 1/2
Houston	28	28	.500	8

Northwest Division

Denver	37	19	.661	–
Utah	37	20	.649	1/2
Oklahoma City	33	23	.589	4
Portland	34	26	.567	5
Minnesota	14	45	.237	24 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	43	15	.741	–
Phoenix	36	23	.610	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	24	33	.421	18 1/2
Sacramento	18	39	.316	24 1/2
Golden State	16	40	.286	26

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 98, Minnesota 92
Memphis 99, Washington 94
Portland 101, Toronto 87
Chicago 120, Indiana 110
Milwaukee 115, New Orleans 95
Orlando 110, Houston 92
San Antonio 95, Oklahoma City 87
Utah 102, Charlotte 93
Phoenix 106, Philadelphia 95
Dallas 101, L.A. Lakers 96
L.A. Clippers 97, Detroit 91

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S CAGING STANDINGS

MBI	4	0
World Resort	3	0
Fiesta Resort	3	0
Pacific Islands Club	2	0
Aqua Resort	2	1
TBK	2	1
Shirley's	2	1
Mobil	2	1
Pepsi	1	2
AON/NJ Plus	1	2
Docomo/SGH	0	2
McGraw-Hill	0	2
Bank of Guam	0	3
Hard Rock	0	3
Cell Pro	0	4

ZengZung: New breeding ground for Tinian fighters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Referee Tony D'Angelo, left, raises the arm of ZengZung fighter Peter Cepeda, who won over Saipan's Denri Fiden in their bout in Rites of Passage 8: Fearless held early this month at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

Tinian's ZengZung has joined the growing list of stables training fighters from the Marianas, putting them in the company of mixed martial arts clubs on Saipan and Guam.

"We started forming ZengZung, which means Shake in Chamorro, in January this year to set up a breeding ground for fighters who want to showcase the talent of Tinian to various MMA events off-island. We want to show the MMA world that we have fighters who are determined, dedicated, talented, and have the heart to go into the ring and represent our island," ZengZung training coordinator Keith K. Nabors said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

Nabors said ZengZung fighters began training in their backyard with old boxing clubs and other worn-out equipment. The club also had only three fighters who initially agreed to train for an MMA event on Saipan. ZengZung eventually debuted in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage: Fearless early this month, bringing six fighters to Saipan to compete against Guam and the host's bets.

"Craig Borja, Gerry Mundo, and Siegfried Enriquez made verbal commitments to fight in the Rites of Passage 8: Fearless. Soon after they had started their training regimen, three more fighters, George Manglona Jr., Carl Cepeda, and Peter Cepeda Jr., made their verbal commitments to fight in the Rites as well," Nabors said.

Peter Cepeda went on to win over Saipan's Denri Fiden by verbal submission after the first round. Peter unleashed a flurry of punches to Fiden, who could not continue the bout in the second round, as the latter was still wobbling from receiving too much punishment from the Tinian fighter.

Two more Tinian fighters prevailed in their respective bouts with Mundo winning by TKO against Jason Teregeyo at the end of the first round. Teregeyo sustained a big lump on his forehead after getting hit by Mundo's solid punches.

Borja was trailing on points in his bout against Guam's Frank Benavente in the first round, but the former became aggressive in the second round to grab the win. Benavente sustained a cut due to Borja's attack, prompting referee Tony D' Angelo to stop the fight in the 58- second mark of the second round.

"After having some success in the Rites of Passage, it encouraged other fighters interested in MMA but didn't really have any direction to go that those who train hard can be successful fighting on Saipan against Saipan and Guam fighters," Nabors said.

Aside from the six fighters who debuted in ROP 8, ZengZung also has Nathan Aquiningoc, Juanis King Jr., Napu Aldan, Zack Rhodes, Steven Mendiola Jr., Josh Sanchez, Joe Untalan Jr., Thomas Erickson, ReneBhoy Benghit, and James Reyes on its stable.

Nabors vowed to continue training fighters who are interested in showing their wares in the octagon cage through the help of fellow MMA clubs, such as Trench Tech, Inc., and some local officials.

"Cuki Alvarez of Trench Tech and some members of his family came to Tinian last weekend and conducted a two-day clinic. They also donated $500 to allow us to repair the old boxing ring at a local gym," Nabors said.

"We would like to thank Cuki Alvarez, his wife, Mariana and son, Shane, Senator Frank Q. Cruz, Rep. Trenton Conner, Mayor Raymond M. Dela Cruz, DCCA RDH Lydia Barcinas, and Mr. Frank Mendiola for their help," Nabors added.

SML still looking for corporate sponsor

The 2010 Saipan Major League baseball competition is still looking for a corporate sponsor.

SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said the league's four-year sponsorship contract with a beverage company had lapsed last year and SML is now open for a new partnership.

The league opened its 2010 season last week with the defending champion St. Michael Rangers topping D-9ers, 11-6, in the early rematch of last year's finalists.

2008 champion Rock Steady was supposed to collide against the Falcons on Monday, but the game was called off as league officials and volunteers had to fix a minor problem at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The league resumed on Wednesday with the Fielders beating the Miller Lite Brewers in nine innings, 15-6.

The six participating teams in SML will play in a double round-robin regular season. Playoffs format will be discussed at the end of the elimination round.

Last season, only the Top 4 teams advanced to the playoffs.

The D-9ers then swept the last two games in their best-of-three semis series against the then defending champion Rock Steady to make it to the finals.

The semis tiff between the Rangers and Tanapag Falcons also went the distance with the latter winning Game 1 and the former prevailing in Games 2 and 3 to set up a title duel against D-9ers. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
D-9ers' Jonathan Tenorio looks at the Rangers batter first before making a pitch during their game in the opening of the 2010 Saipan Major League baseball competition at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

SSC Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim tomorrow

The Saipan Swim Club will be holding the 5th Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim tomorrow in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

The event will have competitions in three divisions: 1 kilometer, 3km, and 5km. The weekend swim is a good warm-up for athletes joining next month's XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon.

Registration fee is only $10 on or before Feb. 26. Registration fee on the race day is $15. All participants will receive a PIC water park pass. Payments can be made at the Law Office of Joshua Berger at the second floor of D'Torres Building in Garapan or to Lisa Kimball at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi between 3:30pm and 6pm. Registration will begin at 7am, while the race will start at 8am.

For more information, contact Kimball at 322-7130 or via e-mail at coach@saipanswimclub.com.

In last year's meek and mighty event, Cooper Graf won the 5km race (mighty division) with a record-time of one hour, two minutes, passing his 2008 time of 1:03.16.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Participants in last year's Saipan Swim Club plunge into the waters off Pacific Islands Club during the 4th Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim.

Checking in at second place was Lester Lapuz, who timed in at 1:08:00, while Grace Kimball was third overall and the first female out of the water with her time of 1:10:27.

In the 1km race or the Meek division, Maxi Braig defeated SSC coach Michael Villagomez with the former clocking in at 24:04 against the against the latter's 24:14.

In the 3km race (tweener division), Kieran Daly and Abigail Martinsen emerged the top two finishers. Daly and Martinsen appeared out of the water almost at the same time, but Daly reached the finish line on the PIC shore first at 46:22. Martinsen came in second, but was the first female finisher with her time of 46:22. ***(PR)***

RGA February Ace Saturday

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding the RGA February Ace tournament tomorrow at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Check-in time is 11am, while tee off is at 12pm.

The score to beat is net 65, which Joe Saures recorded during the February Ace qualifying tournament on Feb. 13, also at Kingfisher.

If Saures' score remain unbeaten, he gets to keep the February Ace and earns a slot to the club championship, joining January Ace Jun Yi Piao.

Meanwhile, RGA is still open for membership. Annual membership fee is only $25.

Pacific Games qualifier Sunday

Meanwhile, RGA member Jess Wabol is in charge of holding a series of qualifying tournaments for the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

The first qualifier will be held on Feb. 28 at Coral Ocean Point.

Wabol said the selection process for the CNMI Team that will compete in New Caledonia will be done in two stages.

Wabol said the first part will have four to eight rounds of golf tournaments. From the first part, golfers to make it to the Top 12 will move to the second phase. Only the gross scores will be counted in the rankings.

In the second part, a few more rounds will be played to determine the Top 5 players who will gain slots on the CNMI Golf Team.

The Commonwealth golfers' previous Pacific Games stint was in 2003 in Fiji. Wabol was on the squad, which also had Joseph Camacho, Joji Taguchi, and Ed Peters as members.

Next year's Pacific Games will run from Aug. 27 to September 10.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact tournament director Dwayne Stephens at 288-0005 or RGA president Jordon Kosam at 483-4506. For information about the Pacific Games qualifier, contact Wabol at 288-1129. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Weather problems return to Vancouver Olympics

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Pros to students: Make grade, will play

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School physical education instructor Nick Gross, right, thanks, from left, Paul Baxter, Jenn Snyder, Andrew Fuller, and Claire D'Amore for having an inspirational discussion with MHS students yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

What do the four pro beach volleyball spikers gracing this weekend's 18th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival have in common besides being members of the Association of Volleyball Professionals?

Marianas Cup returnees Paul Baxter and Jenn Snyder and newcomers Andrew Fuller and Claire D'Amore were all college graduates, finishing school first and then bringing their beach volleyball skills to the next level by joining the AVP Tour.

Baxter played volleyball and graduated from Ball State University in Indiana; Snyder had a degree in Communications from Long Beach State University in California; Fuller also majored in Communications at Virginia Tech; and D'Amore holds a degree in Health Promotion & Physical Education from Northern Arizona University.

All four participated in a question and

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Mobil sneaks past Bank of Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jun Galzote made only a free throw in the fourth quarter, but it was a point that mattered the most as it lifted Mobil Oil to an 80-79 win over Bank of Guam during their game in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Galzote drew a foul from BoG's Bobby Coldeen in the rebound play with three seconds left on the clock. Galzote stepped up to the foul line with the game tied at 79-all, pulled up for a shot with the ball appearing to be rattling off the rim first before going back in. Galzote then intentionally missed the second charity and Bank of Guam's Dexter Mendiola struggled to pick up the ball on the floor until time expired.

Galzote's split free throw came after Jun Estolas muffed two shots from the stripe. After Estolas' second miss, Gyles Ruluked went for a follow-up, but overshot his mark, leading to another rebound contest. Ruluked and Galzote battled the much smaller frontliners of BoG in the rebound play with Coldeen trying to tap the ball to a teammate, but in the process hit Galzote's arms.

The win was Mobil's second in three games, while the loss was BoG's third in as many matches.

Bank of Guam boosted its chances for its first win when it led by six, 76-70, entering the final three minutes of the game. However, five straight points from Ruluked brought Mobil back into the game and then Brian Ajoste canned a 10-footer to grab the lead, 77-76, with less than two minutes left in the match.

A Dave Palacios triple had Bank of Guam back on top, 79-77, before

See MOBIL on Page 34

Mobil's Jun Galzote pulls up for a jumper against two Bank of Guam defenders during their game in the Shirley's caging on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Staal, Kimura off to Japan Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI swimmers will be competing in the prestigious Japan Open 2010 at the sprawling Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tatsumi, Koto-ku for the second straight year.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kai Staal and Shin Kimura left Saipan for Japan yesterday to represent the Commonwealth in the two-day tournament also dubbed as 51st Japan Swimming Championships. It will be Kimura's second straight time to participate in the Japan Open that will start tomorrow and run until Sunday. He was in the same tournament last year, joining teammate Rezne Wong. Staal will be making his debut in the tournament that will feature finalists and medalists of the Bei-

See STAAL on Page 34

Quotes, folks

Always hate it when someone my age dies. Even worse when the person is younger. Reminds me of my own mortality as if I need to be reminded.

Staring death in the mirror forces one to think about the final days and frames it with the lessons gleaned in personal history.

Former Patriot running back Mosi Tatupu who is credited with opening the Samoan pipeline to football passed away this week at the age of 54.

One can hardly imagine a better epitaph than that from his former teammate Andre Tippet, "You probably couldn't ask for a better teammate than Mosi. It was the way he approached the game. He worked hard. He practiced hard. He had a way about him. He always had an upbeat attitude, he was happy all the time and just pleasant to be around. He had a special connection with the fans and his teammates. Everybody loved him."

Denver Nuggets coach George Karl is my contemporary. He's just three weeks older than I am. He revealed that he has throat can-

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2